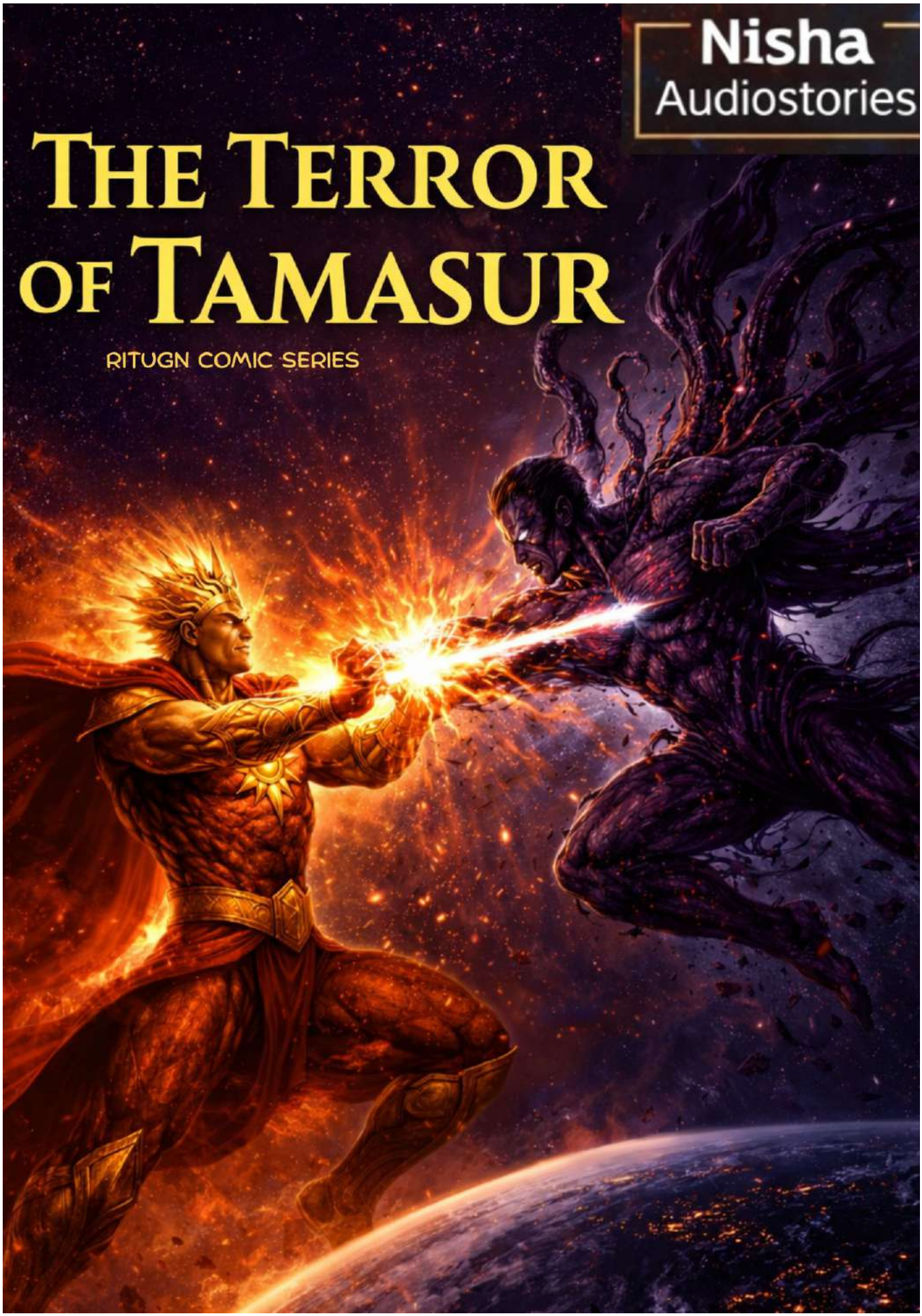
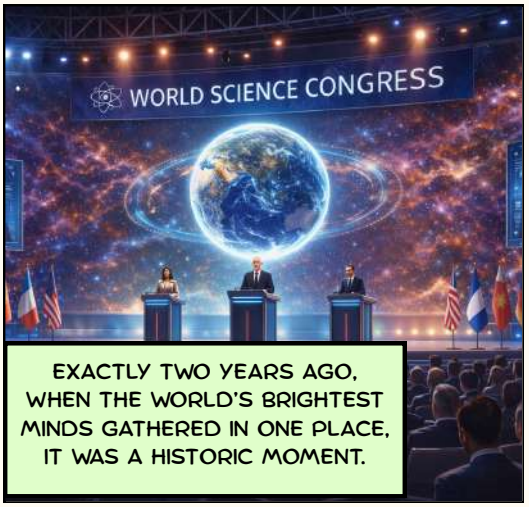

Nisha
Audiostories
THE TERROR OF TAMASUR
RITUGN COMIC SERIES

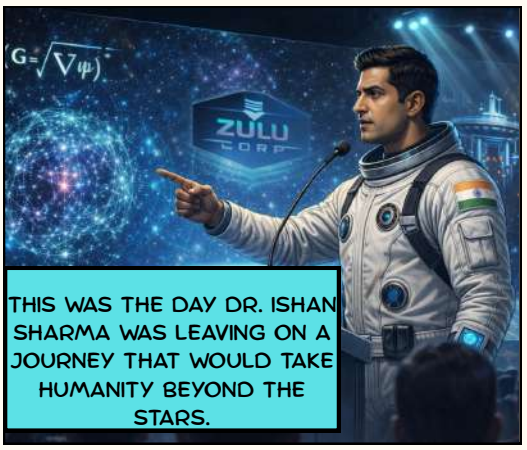
THE TERROR OF TAMASUR

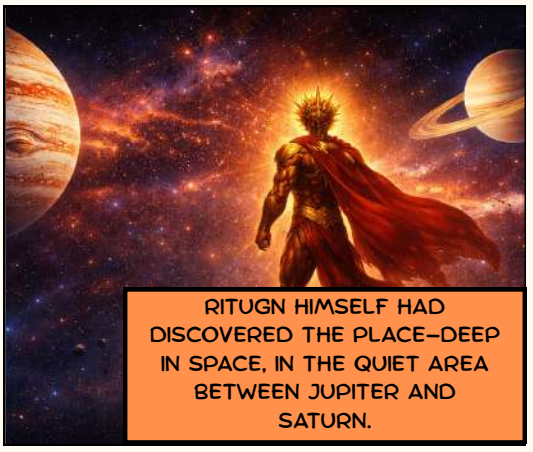
RITUGN : COMIC SERIES

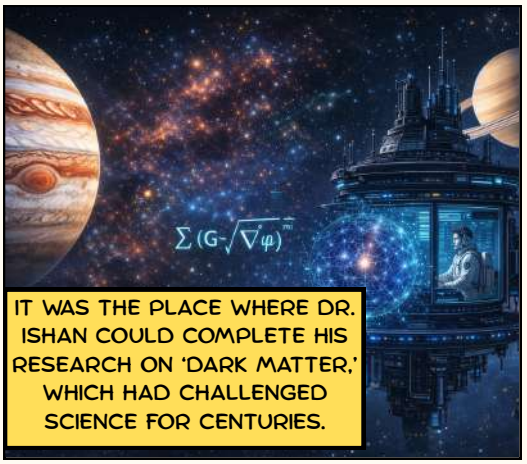
ISSUE # 2

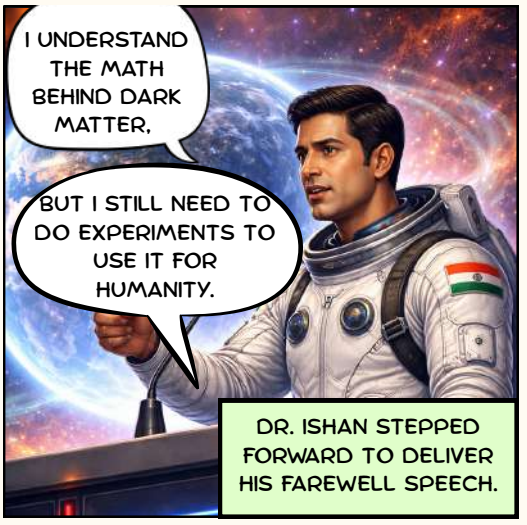
AUTHOR, LETTERER, ILLUSTRATOR – DR. NISHA SHASTRY

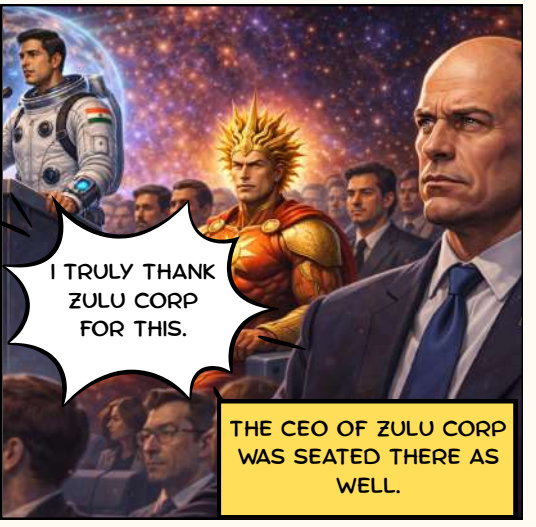

WORLD SCIENCE CONGRESS
EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO, WHEN THE WORLD'S BRIGHTEST MINDS GATHERED IN ONE PLACE, IT WAS A HISTORIC MOMENT.







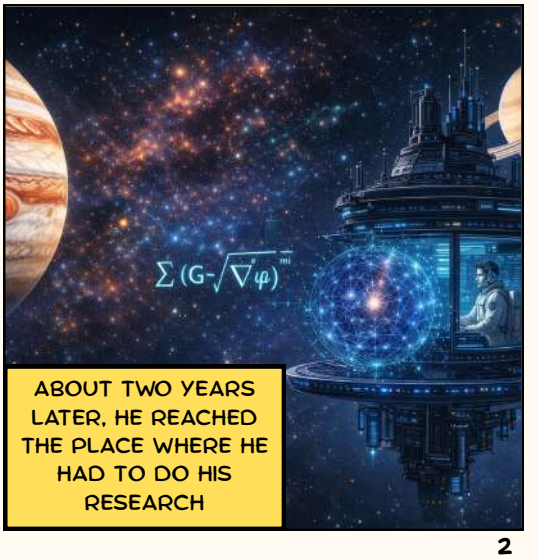

I UNDERSTAND THE MATH BEHIND DARK MATTER,
BUT I STILL NEED TO DO EXPERIMENTS TO USE IT FOR HUMANITY.
DR. ISHAN STEPPED FORWARD TO DELIVER HIS FAREWELL SPEECH.

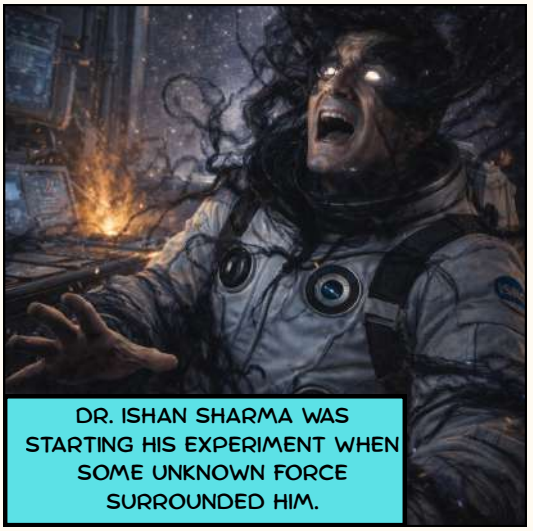

I TRULY THANK ZULU CORP FOR THIS.
THE CEO OF ZULU CORP WAS SEATED THERE AS WELL.

HE SAID THIS AND THEN WALKED TOWARD THE ULTRA-MODERN SPACE STATION.

GO, DOCTOR. FIND THE TRUTH OF SPACE AND SHOW THE WORLD WHAT DARK MATTER REALLY IS.
WITH THESE WORDS, THEY BID DR. SHARMA GOODBYE.

DR. ISHAN SHARMA HAD LEFT TO EXPLORE THE HEIGHTS OF SPACE.

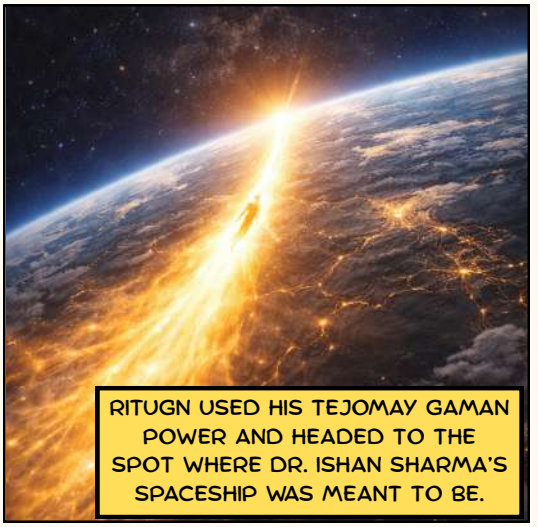

ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER, HE REACHED THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD TO DO HIS RESEARCH



DR. ISHAN SHARMA WAS STARTING HIS EXPERIMENT WHEN SOME UNKNOWN FORCE SURROUNDED HIM.

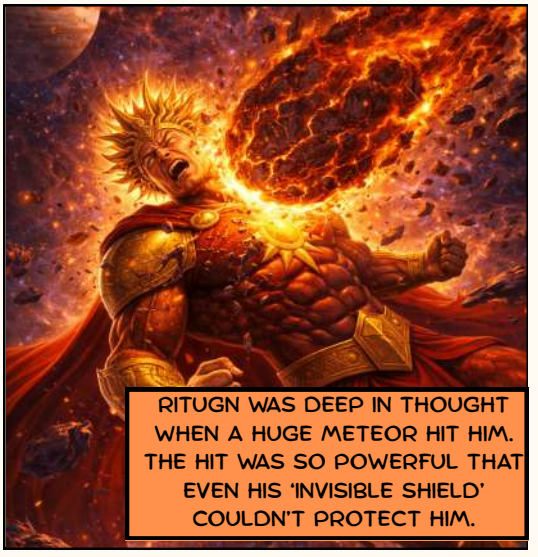
THEY LOST CONTACT WITH DR. ISHAN. THE WHOLE EARTH WENT SILENT.

NOW EVERYONE HAD ONLY ONE HOPE: RITUGN. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REACH DR. ISHAN SHARMA FAST AND BRING HIM BACK TO EARTH.



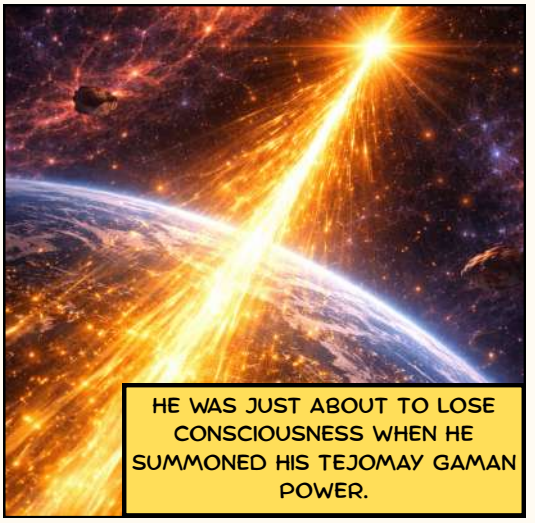
RITUGN USED HIS TEJOMAY GAMAN POWER AND HEADED TO THE SPOT WHERE DR. ISHAN SHARMA'S SPACESHIP WAS MEANT TO BE.

BUT WHAT HE SAW THERE SHOCKED EVEN RITUGN. THERE WAS NO LAB, NO SPACE STATION... ONLY RUBBLE AND DESTRUCTION.



RITUGN WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT WHEN A HUGE METEOR HIT HIM. THE HIT WAS SO POWERFUL THAT EVEN HIS 'INVISIBLE SHIELD' COULDN'T PROTECT HIM.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, RITUGN'S SCREAM TORE THROUGH THE SILENCE OF SPACE.


HE WAS JUST ABOUT TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN HE SUMMONED HIS TEJOMAY GAMAN POWER.

BEATEN, BROKEN, DRENCHED IN BLOOD, RITUGN REACHED EARTH SOMEHOW. HE DRAGGED HIS BODY TO THE ONLY SANCTUARY HE KNEW.

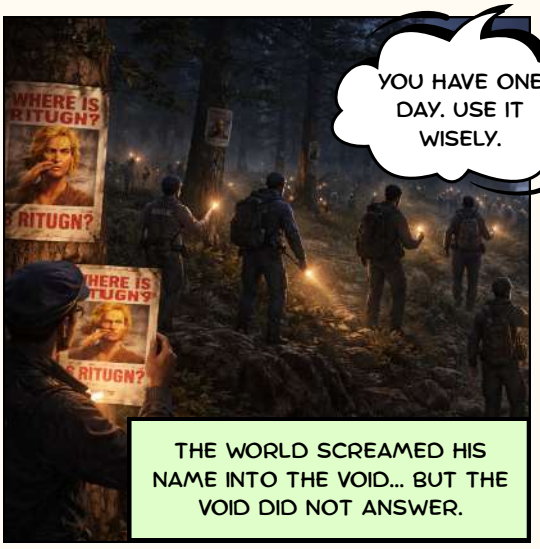
THEY SIMPLY WENT TO WORK. IN THE QUIET OF THEIR HOME, THE LONG ROAD TO HIS RESURRECTION BEGAN.

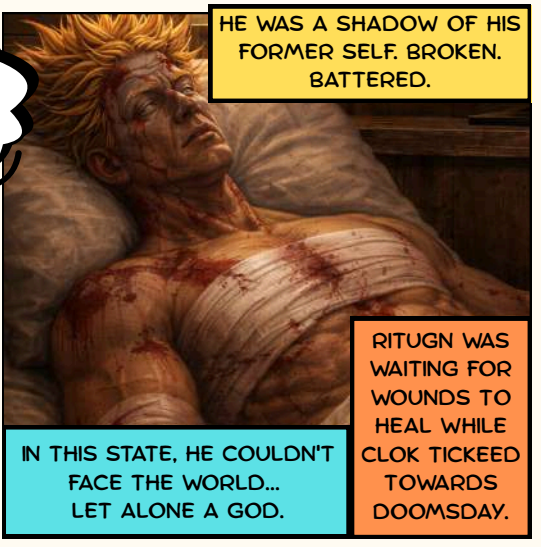
LISTEN, MORTALS. I AM TAMASUR.
JUST WHEN THE PROTECTOR STOOD AT DEATH'S DOOR THE SILENCE WAS SHATTERED.

BEFORE THE FIRST LIGHT FLICKERED, BEFORE THE UNIVERSE WAS BORN... THERE WAS ONLY THE VOID.
ON EVERY SCREEN ACROSS THE GLOBE. A TERRIFYING MESSAGE ROARED TO LIFE.

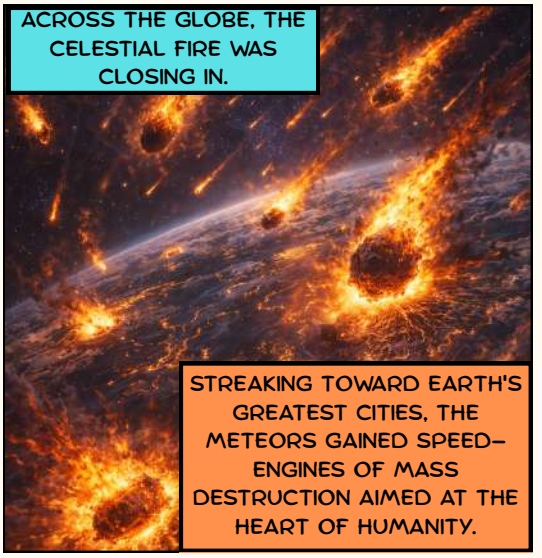
HE WAS A GHOST IN THE MACHINE. A DIGITAL PLAGUE.
OBSERVE GLOBAL BLACKOUT
GLOBAL EMERGENCY - TAMASUR'S ULTIMATUM
FROM THE PHONE IN POCKET TO THE SCREEN IN LIVING ROOM –TAMASUR WAS THERE.

INITIATE A TOTAL BLACKOUT UPON THE EARTH!
EXTINGUISH EVERY SPARK OF LIGHT.
BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP THE VOID THAT SPELLS YOUR DOOM!


YOU HAVE ONE DAY. USE IT WISELY.
WHERE IS RITUGN?
RITUGN?
THE WORLD SCREAMED HIS NAME INTO THE VOID... BUT THE VOID DID NOT ANSWER.


HE WAS A SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SELF. BROKEN. BATTERED.
IN THIS STATE, HE COULDN'T FACE THE WORLD... LET ALONE A GOD.
RITUGN WAS WAITING FOR WOUNDS TO HEAL WHILE CLOK TICKEED TOWARDS DOOMSDAY.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THAT'S ALL THE PEACE EARTH HAD.
THEN, THE HEAVENS OPENED... AND RAINED FIRE. AN ENDLESS BARRAGE OF METEORS. THE ASSAULT HAD BEGUN.

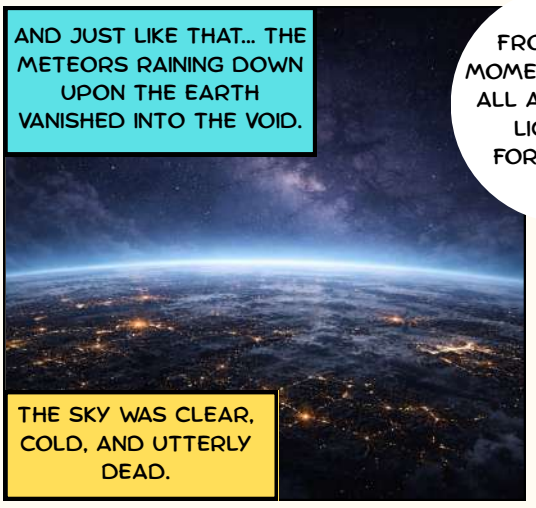

ACROSS THE GLOBE, THE CELESTIAL FIRE WAS CLOSING IN.
STREAKING TOWARD EARTH'S GREATEST CITIES, THE METEORS GAINED SPEED– ENGINES OF MASS DESTRUCTION AIMED AT THE HEART OF HUMANITY.

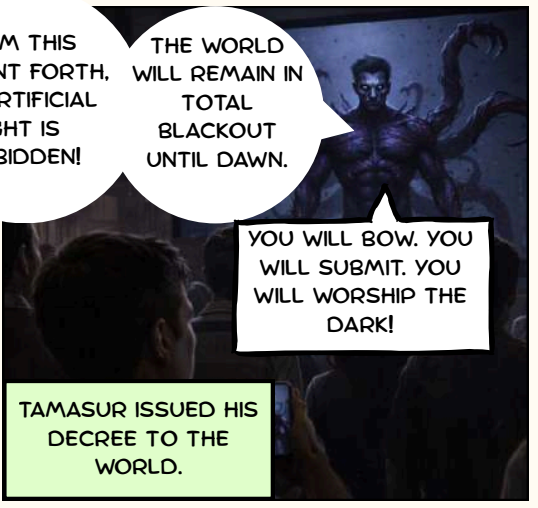
THE UNITED NATIONS WAS BACKED INTO A CORNER. NO MORE OPTIONS. NO MORE TIME.
AND OF RITUGN? NOT A TRACE. NOT EVEN A WHISPER IN THE WIND.
WHERE IS RITUGN?
Uncertain Fate of the Missing Hero
WITH THEIR CHAMPION GONE, THE WORLD'S LEADERS REACHED FOR THE NUCLEAR TRIGGER. THE ORDER WAS SIGNED: TERMINATE THE METEORS... AT ANY COST.

THE MISSILES STRUCK, SHATTERING A FEW METEORS INTO STARDUST—BUT THE SKY WAS STILL RAINING FIRE. IMPACT WAS INEVITABLE.
AND THEN... IN THE HEART OF THE PANIC... EVERY SCREEN ON EARTH FLICKERS TO LIFE.

SUBMIT TO ME... AND BECOME MY SLAVE!

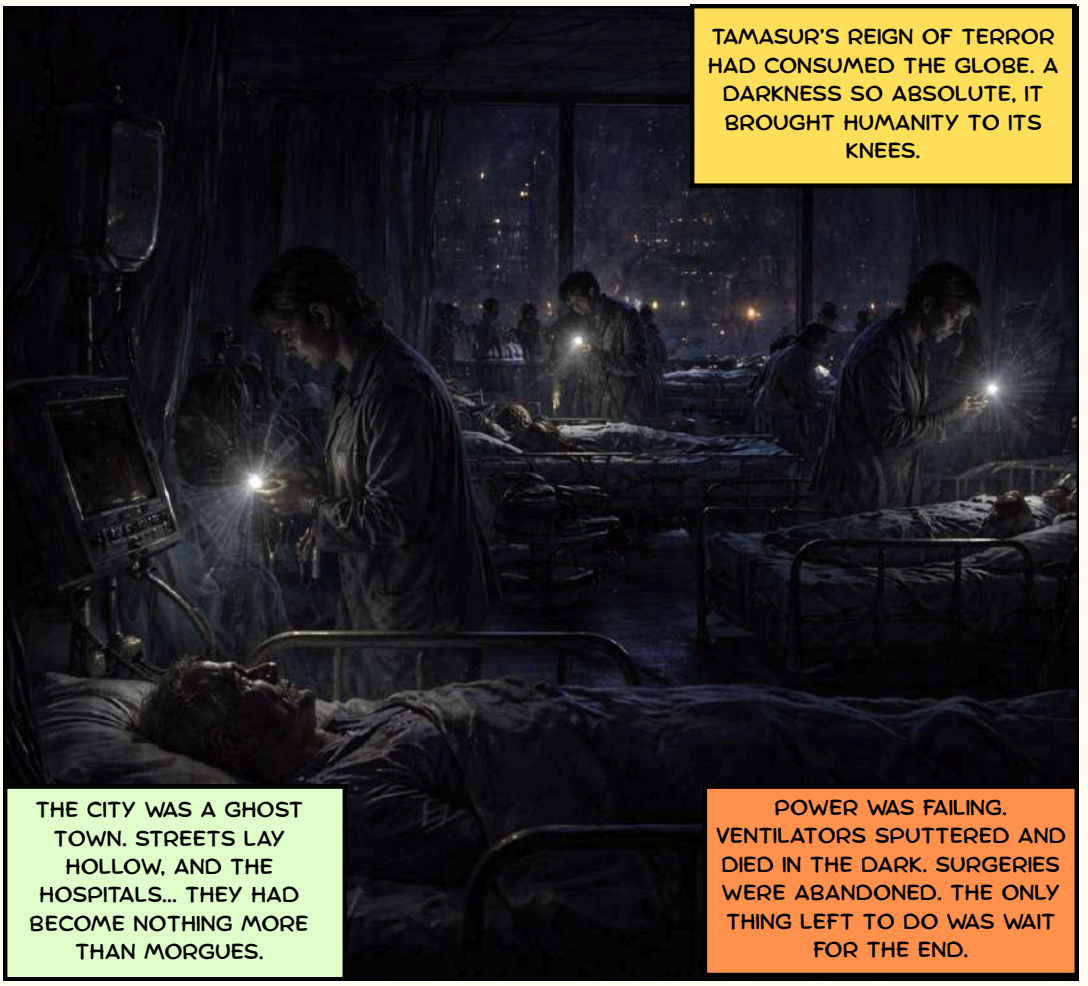
A UNANIMOUS CONSENSUS OF FEAR. THEY BOWED TO TAMASUR'S TERMS—AND ACCEPTED THEIR CHAINS.
ONE BY ONE, THE NATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FELL INTO LINE.

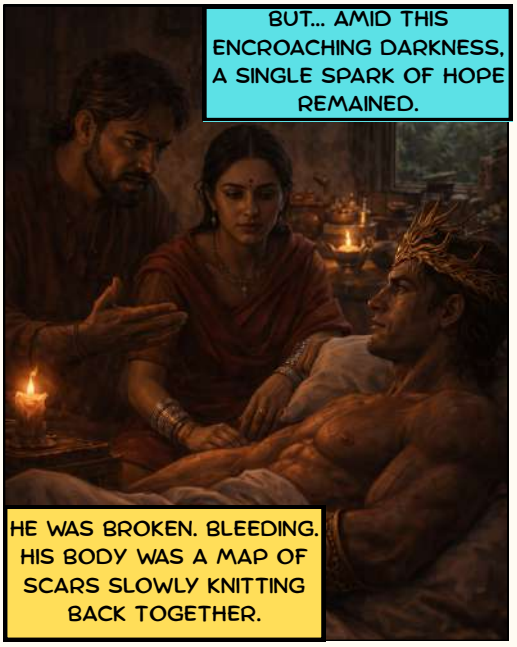

AND JUST LIKE THAT... THE METEORS RAINING DOWN UPON THE EARTH VANISHED INTO THE VOID.
THE SKY WAS CLEAR, COLD, AND UTTERLY DEAD.

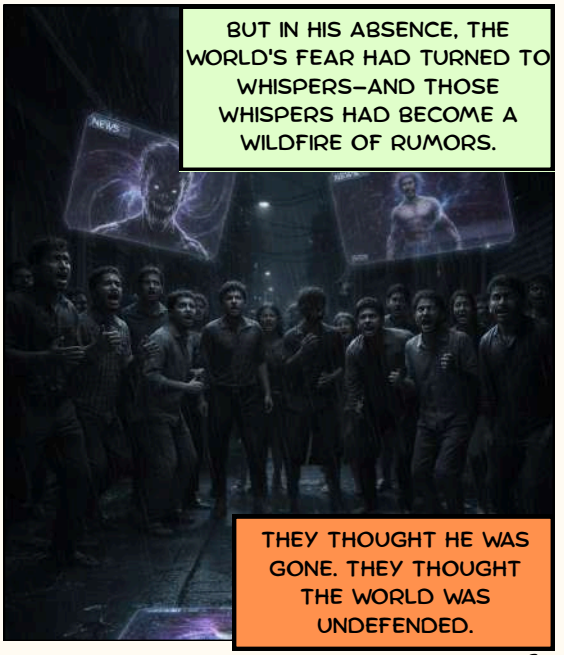

FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, ALL ARTIFICIAL LIGHT IS FORBIDDEN!
THE WORLD WILL REMAIN IN TOTAL BLACKOUT UNTIL DAWN.
YOU WILL BOW. YOU WILL SUBMIT. YOU WILL WORSHIP THE DARK!
TAMASUR ISSUED HIS DECREE TO THE WORLD.

THE NIGHT BELONGED TO HIM... AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES, THE EARTH WAS TRULY DARK

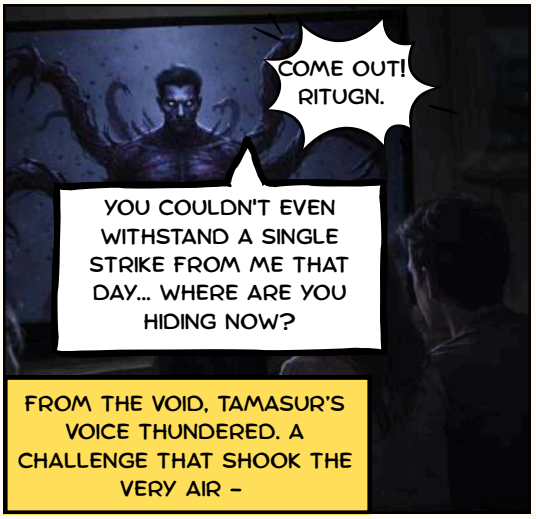
THE WORLD WAS BROKEN. SUBJUGATED. ONE BY ONE, HUMANITY BOWED TO TAMASUR'S COLD, IRON WILL.


TAMASUR'S REIGN OF TERROR HAD CONSUMED THE GLOBE. A DARKNESS SO ABSOLUTE, IT BROUGHT HUMANITY TO ITS KNEES.
THE CITY WAS A GHOST TOWN. STREETS LAY HOLLOW, AND THE HOSPITALS... THEY HAD BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN MORGUES.
POWER WAS FAILING. VENTILATORS SPUTTERED AND DIED IN THE DARK. SURGERIES WERE ABANDONED. THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO WAS WAIT FOR THE END.


BUT... AMID THIS ENCROACHING DARKNESS, A SINGLE SPARK OF HOPE REMAINED.
HE WAS BROKEN. BLEEDING. HIS BODY WAS A MAP OF SCARS SLOWLY KNITTING BACK TOGETHER.

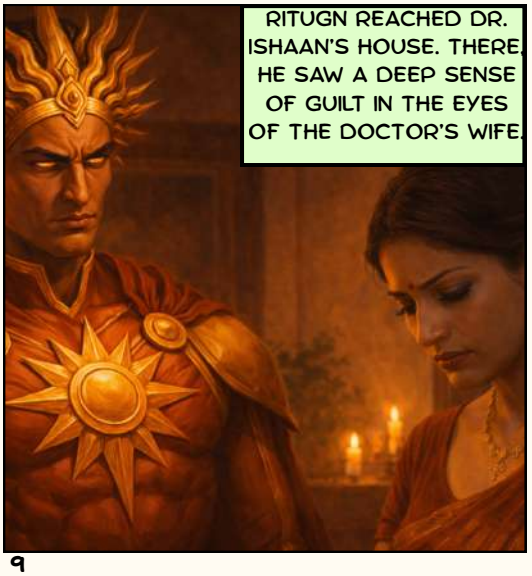

BUT IN HIS ABSENCE, THE WORLD'S FEAR HAD TURNED TO WHISPERS—AND THOSE WHISPERS HAD BECOME A WILDFIRE OF RUMORS.
THEY THOUGHT HE WAS GONE. THEY THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS UNDEFENDED.

SHOW YOURSELF, COWARD!
RITUGN'S POWER IS ONLY AGAINST MEN, AGAINST GOD IS A SPECK OF DUST.
THE WHISPERS WERE EVERYWHERE: RITUGN HAS FALLEN. RITUGN IS AFRAID.


COME OUT! RITUGN.
YOU COULDN'T EVEN WITHSTAND A SINGLE STRIKE FROM ME THAT DAY... WHERE ARE YOU HIDING NOW?
FROM THE VOID, TAMASUR'S VOICE THUNDERED. A CHALLENGE THAT SHOOK THE VERY AIR –

RITUGN WAS NOT SCARED.
HE KNEW THIS WAS'NT THE WAR OF MUSCLE.
TO KILL THE DEMON OF VOID HE NEEDED A PLAN.

THE COUPLE WHO HAD GIVEN HIM SHELTER SHOWED RITUGN A WAY FORWARD.
IF YOU WANT TO KILL A GOD, YOU NEED HIS BLUEPRINT.
YOU'LL FIND THE KEY TO HIS DESTRUCTION IN ONE PLACE: ISHAAN'S LAB.

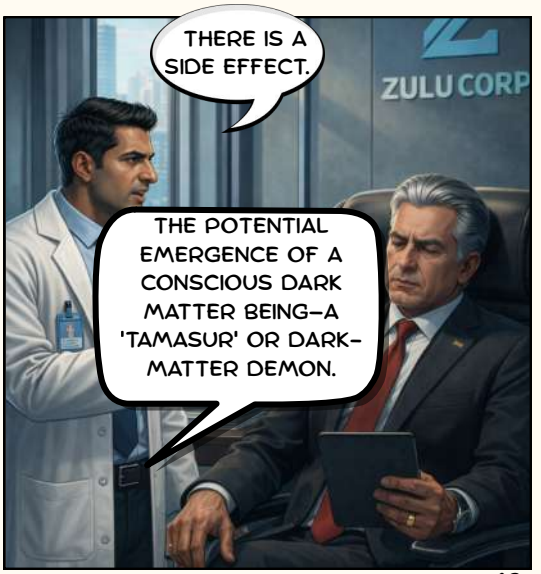

RITUGN REACHED DR. ISHAAN'S HOUSE. THERE, HE SAW A DEEP SENSE OF GUILT IN THE EYES OF THE DOCTOR'S WIFE.

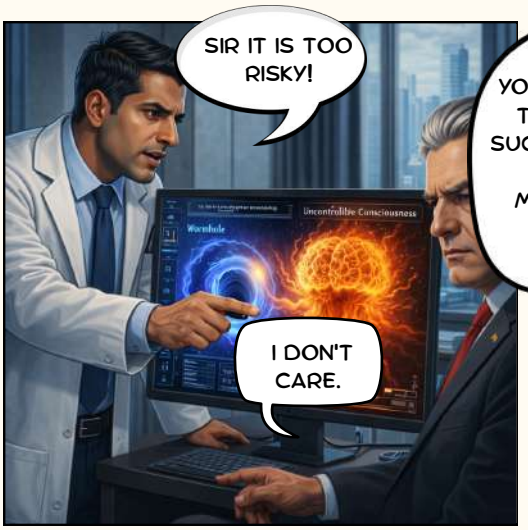
SHE OPENED THAT SECRET DOOR TO WHICH DR. ISHAAN HAD DEDICATED HIS LIFE–HIS HIDDEN LABORATORY.

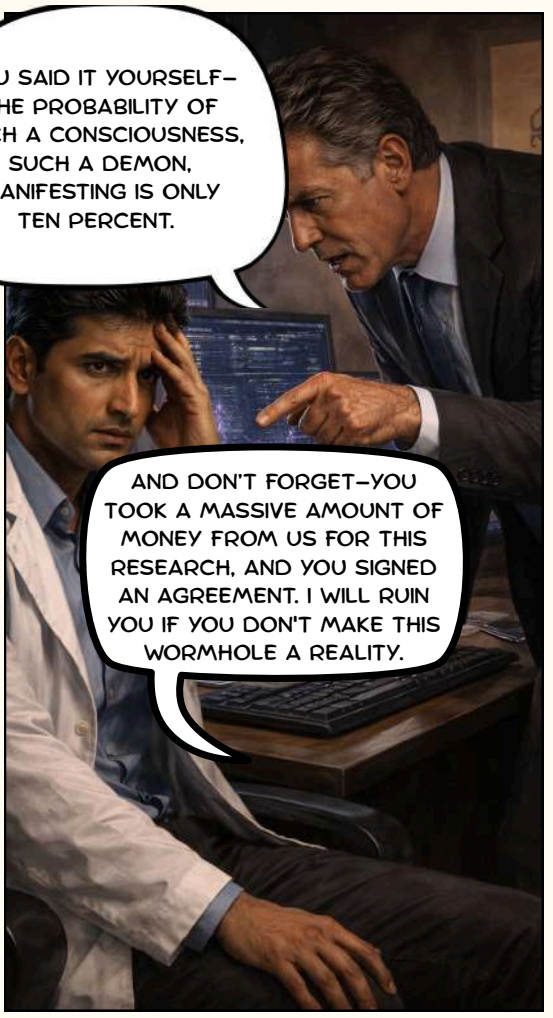
RITUGN READ ISHAAN'S RESEARCH AND FOUND EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD LIKELY BEEN LOOKING FOR.

THE OWNER OF ZULU CORP REPLIED IN A TREMBLING VOICE.
WE FORCED DR. ISHAAN.
HE WASN'T CRAFTING A WEAPON;
HE WAS BUILDING A 'WORMHOLE.' A PORTAL CAPABLE OF CROSSING 400 LIGHT-YEARS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

FROM THERE, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE OWNER OF ZULU CORP. SEEING RITUGN'S RADIANT AURA, THE CORPORATE GIANT TREMBLED WITH FEAR.
I WANT TO HEAR ONLY THE TRUTH.
RITUGN SPOKE WITH A GRAVE TONE.


THERE IS A SIDE EFFECT.
THE POTENTIAL EMERGENCE OF A CONSCIOUS DARK MATTER BEING—A 'TAMASUR' OR DARK-MATTER DEMON.
ZULU CORP

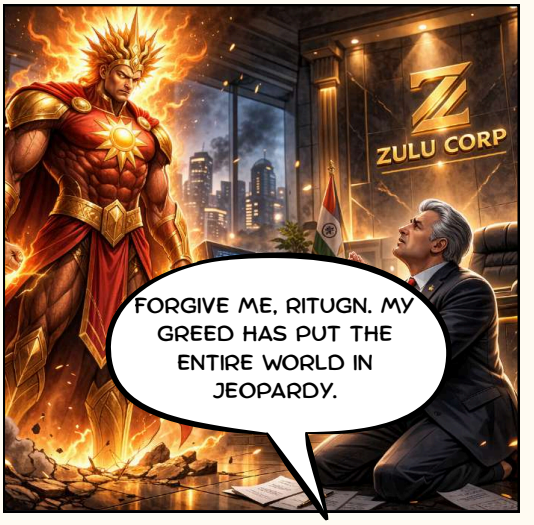

SIR IT IS TOO RISKY!
I DON'T CARE.


YOU SAID IT YOURSELF– THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH A CONSCIOUSNESS, SUCH A DEMON, MANIFESTING IS ONLY TEN PERCENT.
AND DON'T FORGET–YOU TOOK A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM US FOR THIS RESEARCH, AND YOU SIGNED AN AGREEMENT. I WILL RUIN YOU IF YOU DON'T MAKE THIS WORMHOLE A REALITY.

DR. ISHAAN WAS LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH AND CREATE THE WORMHOLE.

YOUR SELFISH OBSESSION HAS PUSHED MANKIND TO THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS.
JUST AS DR. ISHAAN'S RESEARCH WARNED, THIS THING WAS BORN FROM THE DOCTOR'S MIND AND NOW SEES ITSELF AS A DARK MATTER GOD IN THE FLESH.
THAT'S NO LONGER JUST A WORMHOLE... A COLOSSAL ENTITY CALLED TAMASUR HAS EMERGED WITH IT.
Wormhole Stabilization

NOW HE IS INVINCIBLE... IMMORTAL... AND HIS POWER IS SO IMMENSE THAT DEFEATING HIM SEEMS NIGH IMPOSSIBLE.


ZULU CORP
FORGIVE ME, RITUGN. MY GREED HAS PUT THE ENTIRE WORLD IN JEOPARDY.

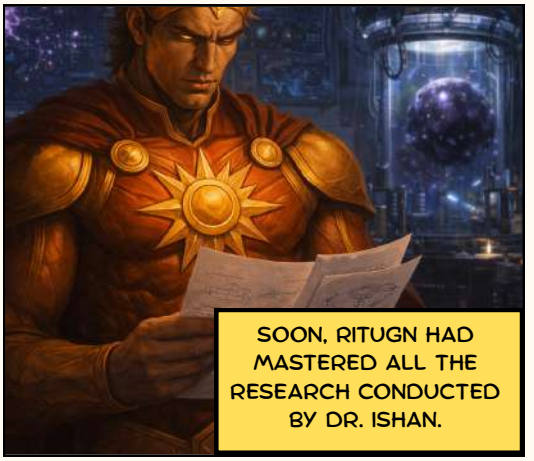
THE PAST IS BEHIND US. NOW,
WE MUST FIND A COUNTERMEASURE FOR THIS DEVIL MADE OF DARK MATTER. HIS POWER IS ABSOLUTE; HE COULD DESTABILIZE THE ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM AT WILL.

METEORITES SCATTER LIKE CARDS BEFORE HIS MENTAL POWER
HE COULD TURN ANY PLANET TO DUST IN A HEARTBEAT.
DESTROYING EARTH WOULD BE EASY FOR HIM... BUT HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE THAN JUST ANNIHILATION.
WHAT HE WANTS IS RESPECT. WHAT HE CRAVES IS WORSHIP. IN HIS MIND, HE HAS ALREADY EARNED HIS GODHOOD. HE IS AWARE THAT LIFE IS UNIQUE TO EARTH, AND HIS GOAL IS TO IMPOSE HIS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE HUMAN RACE.

IS HE MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU !!!
WAY MORE !!!
HE HAS KEPT THE WORMHOLE STABLE THRU HIS POWER.

THE OWNER OF ZULU CORP FINALLY DISMANTLED ALL SECURITY BARRIERS. HE HANDED OVER TOTAL ACCESS TO RITUGN,

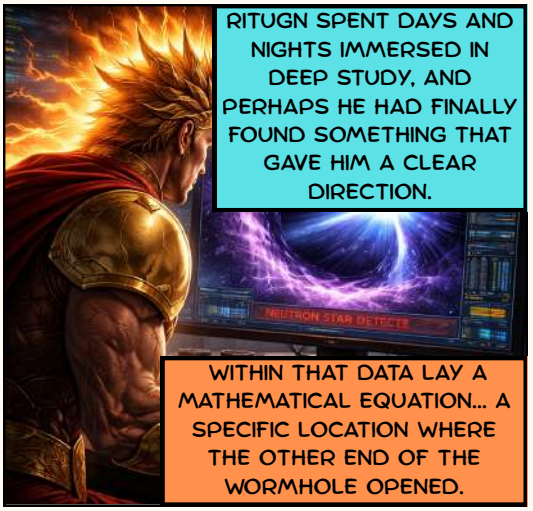
ALLOWING HIM TO UNRAVEL EVERY FILE, EVERY FORMULA, AND THE SECRETS OF EVERY HIDDEN EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED BY DR. ISHAN. THE VEIL OVER KNOWLEDGE WAS GONE—TRUTH WAS NOW UNVEILING ITSELF BEFORE RITUGN.

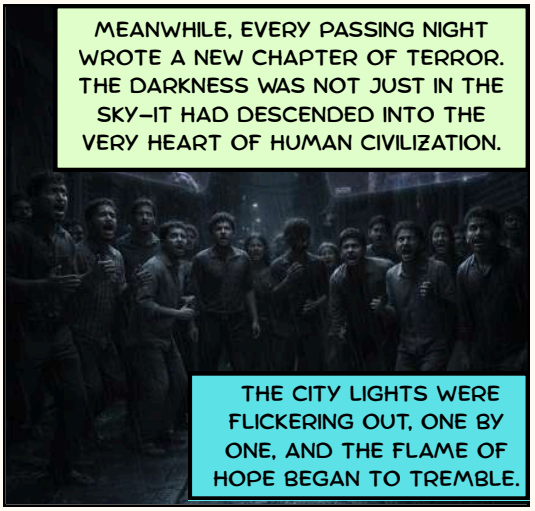


SOON, RITUGN HAD MASTERED ALL THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY DR. ISHAN.

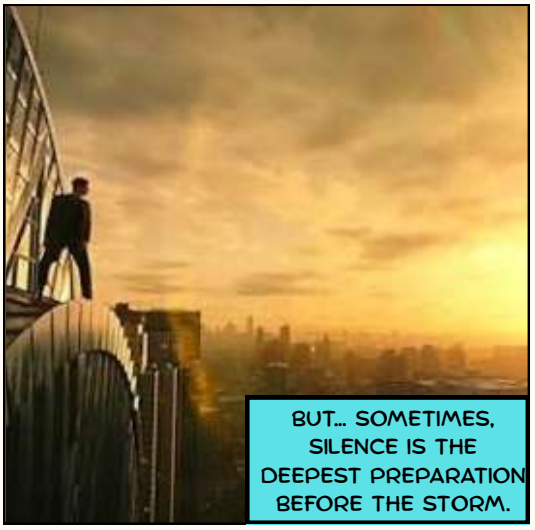
RITUGN WAS READY TO FACE TAMASUR. TAMASUR'S POWER WAS VAST—ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE UNIVERSE ITSELF. BUT RITUGN CARRIED SOMETHING GREATER: THE FATE OF HUMANITY.

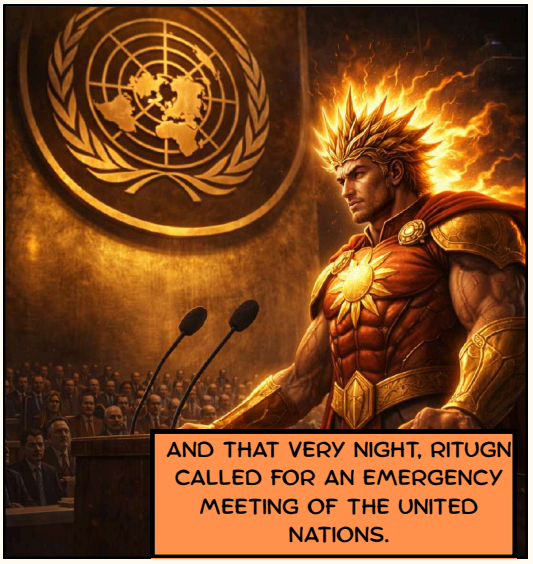
HISTORY BEARS WITNESS. WHENEVER HUMANITY FACED ITS END, IT ROSE STRONGER. THIS TIME, RITUGN WAS THE FORCE THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE.

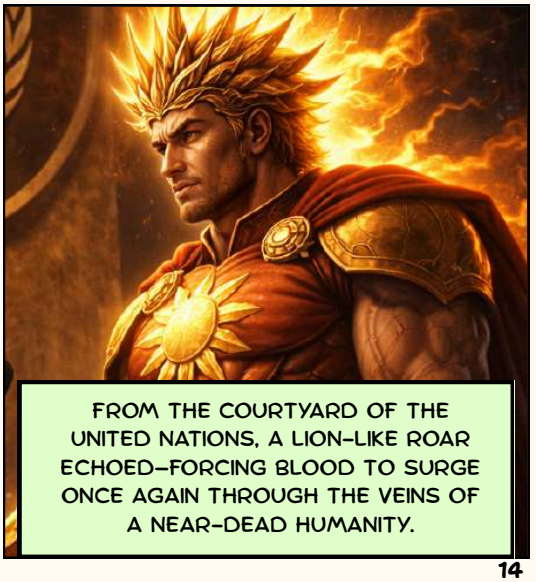

RITUGN SPENT DAYS AND NIGHTS IMMERSED IN DEEP STUDY, AND PERHAPS HE HAD FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING THAT GAVE HIM A CLEAR DIRECTION.
NEUTRON STAR DETECTE
WITHIN THAT DATA LAY A MATHEMATICAL EQUATION... A SPECIFIC LOCATION WHERE THE OTHER END OF THE WORMHOLE OPENED.


MEANWHILE, EVERY PASSING NIGHT WROTE A NEW CHAPTER OF TERROR. THE DARKNESS WAS NOT JUST IN THE SKY—IT HAD DESCENDED INTO THE VERY HEART OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION.
THE CITY LIGHTS WERE FLICKERING OUT, ONE BY ONE, AND THE FLAME OF HOPE BEGAN TO TREMBLE.

SAVE US RITUGN!
WHERE ARE YOU RITUGN?
CURSE YOU RITUGN!
WAITO YOUH RITUGN!
THE PEOPLE WERE CALLING OUT TO RITUGN... AND IN THAT VERY SAME BREATH, THEY WERE CURSING HIM.

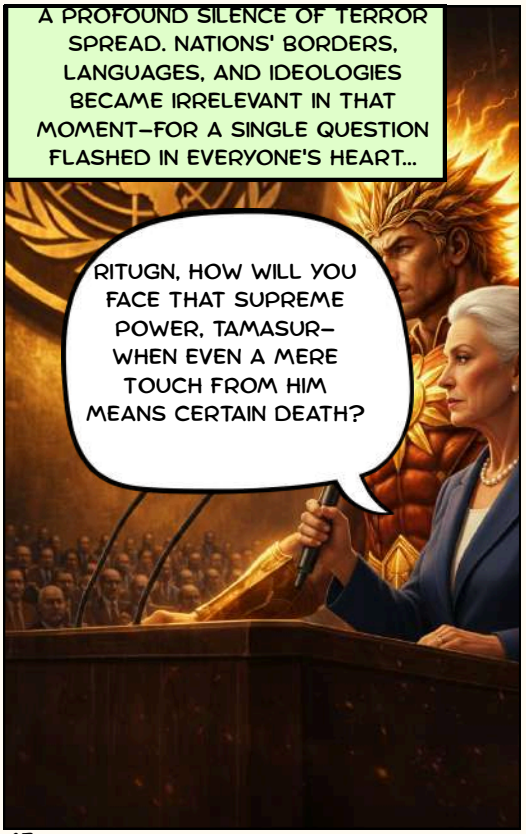

BUT... SOMETIMES, SILENCE IS THE DEEPEST PREPARATION BEFORE THE STORM.

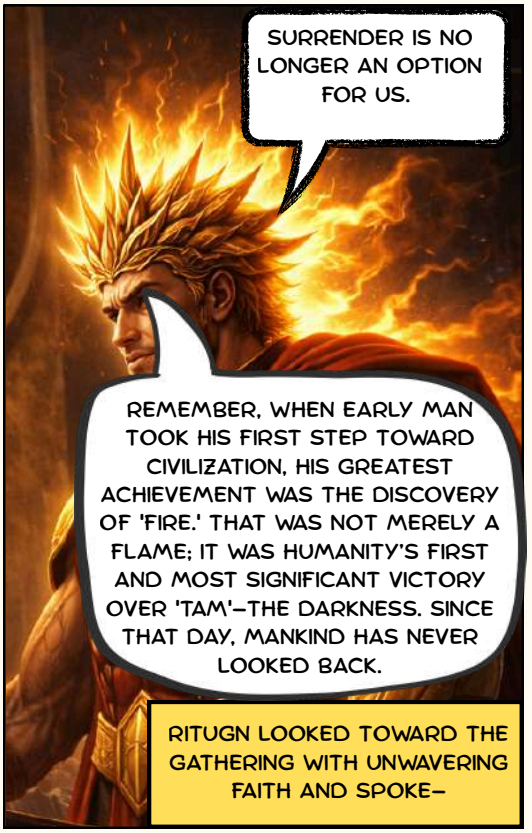

AND THAT VERY NIGHT, RITUGN CALLED FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS.


FROM THE COURTYARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS, A LION-LIKE ROAR ECHOED—FORCING BLOOD TO SURGE ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE VEINS OF A NEAR-DEAD HUMANITY.

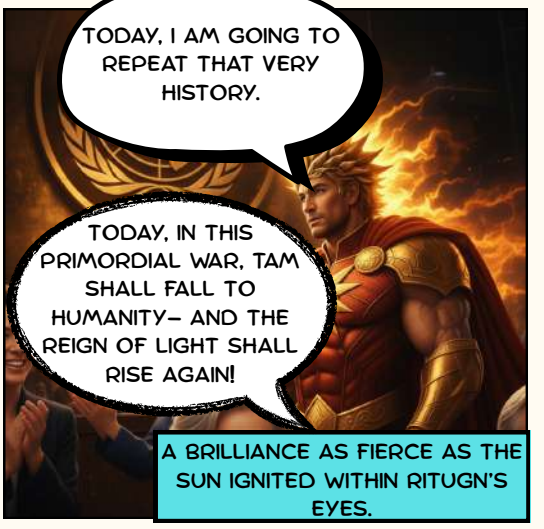
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THERE SHALL BE NO MORE BLACKOUTS!
HUMANITY HAS NEVER BOWED BEFORE, AND IT SHALL NOT BOW NOW.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE REIGN OF DARKNESS TO END.
RITUGN'S CHALLENGE SENT SHOCKWAVES TO EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. ON ONE SIDE, THE FLAME OF HOPE WAS REKINDLED, WHILE ON THE OTHER,


A PROFOUND SILENCE OF TERROR SPREAD. NATIONS' BORDERS, LANGUAGES, AND IDEOLOGIES BECAME IRRELEVANT IN THAT MOMENT—FOR A SINGLE QUESTION FLASHED IN EVERYONE'S HEART...
RITUGN, HOW WILL YOU FACE THAT SUPREME POWER, TAMASUR— WHEN EVEN A MERE TOUCH FROM HIM MEANS CERTAIN DEATH?


SURRENDER IS NO LONGER AN OPTION FOR US.
REMEMBER, WHEN EARLY MAN TOOK HIS FIRST STEP TOWARD CIVILIZATION, HIS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT WAS THE DISCOVERY OF 'FIRE.' THAT WAS NOT MERELY A FLAME; IT WAS HUMANITY'S FIRST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT VICTORY OVER 'TAM'—THE DARKNESS. SINCE THAT DAY, MANKIND HAS NEVER LOOKED BACK.
RITUGN LOOKED TOWARD THE GATHERING WITH UNWAVERING FAITH AND SPOKE—

A NEW SURGE OF VIGOR AND PRIDE AWAKENED IN THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE PRESENT THERE.


TODAY, I AM GOING TO REPEAT THAT VERY HISTORY.
TODAY, IN THIS PRIMORDIAL WAR, TAM SHALL FALL TO HUMANITY– AND THE REIGN OF LIGHT SHALL RISE AGAIN!
A BRILLIANCE AS FIERCE AS THE SUN IGNITED WITHIN RITUGN'S EYES.

RITUGN BROADCASTED HIS DECLARATION ACROSS EVERY MEDIA CHANNEL AND EVERY MESSAGING PLATFORM ON EARTH. HE ISSUED A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO TAMASUR'S REIGN–

RITUGN
THERE WILL BE NO MORE BLACKOUTS. TAMASUR, I AM COMING FOR YOU... STOP ME IF YOU DARE!
RITUGN KNEW THAT HIS MESSAGE WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH TAMASUR.

AND SO IT HAPPENED. TAMASUR HAD HEARD RITUGN'S DEFIANT WORDS.
THIS INSIGNIFICANT CREATURE DARES TO CHALLENGE THE SUPREME POWER OF TAMASUR.

RITUGN'S MESSAGE SURGED THROUGH ALL OF HUMANITY, IGNITING A NEW AND POWERFUL SPARK OF COURAGE.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

WITH THE FALL OF THIS FOOL, MY REIGN OVER EARTH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOREVER.

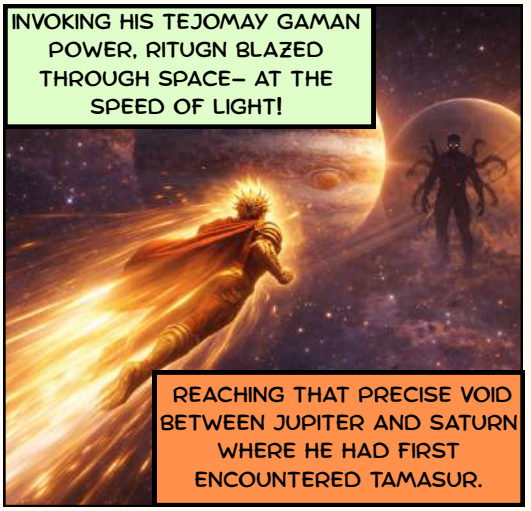
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, A TERRIFYING MESSAGE FLASHED ACROSS BILLIONS OF MOBILE AND TV SCREENS WORLDWIDE. IT WAS TAMASUR'S RESPONSE:

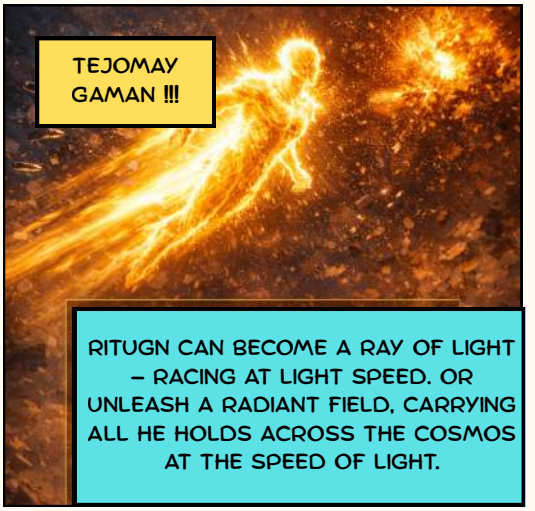
TAMASUR WANTED HUMANITY ENSLAVED, NOT EXTINCT. BUT NOW HIS ONLY TARGET WAS RITUGN. BY KILLING HIM HE WILL ENSLAVE HUMANITY FOREVER. IN HIS ARROGANCE TO CHALLENGE THE VOID, RITUGN HAD MADE THE ULTIMATE BLUNDER.

FIRST, RITUGN SHALL MEET HIS END...

AND ONLY THEN WILL YOU ALL BE GRANTED ONE FINAL CHANCE. BUT REMEMBER

IF YOU COMMIT EVEN A SINGLE MISTAKE AFTER THAT, NOT JUST THE EARTH, BUT THE ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM WILL BE CONSUMED BY MY WRATH.

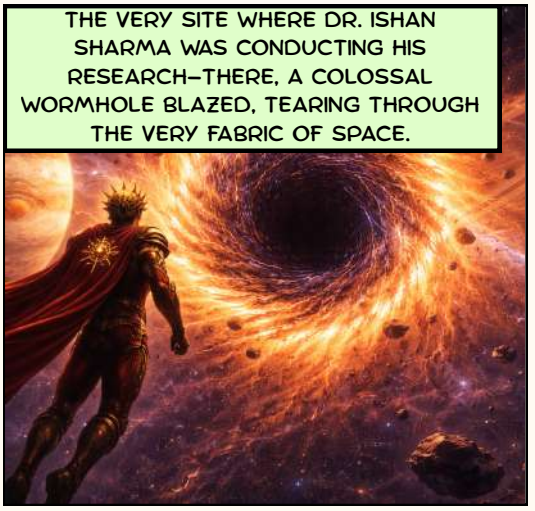

INVOKING HIS TEJOMAY GAMAN POWER, RITUGN BLAZED THROUGH SPACE– AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!
REACHING THAT PRECISE VOID BETWEEN JUPITER AND SATURN WHERE HE HAD FIRST ENCOUNTERED TAMASUR.


TEJOMAY GAMAN !!!
RITUGN CAN BECOME A RAY OF LIGHT – RACING AT LIGHT SPEED. OR UNLEASH A RADIANT FIELD, CARRYING ALL HE HOLDS ACROSS THE COSMOS AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

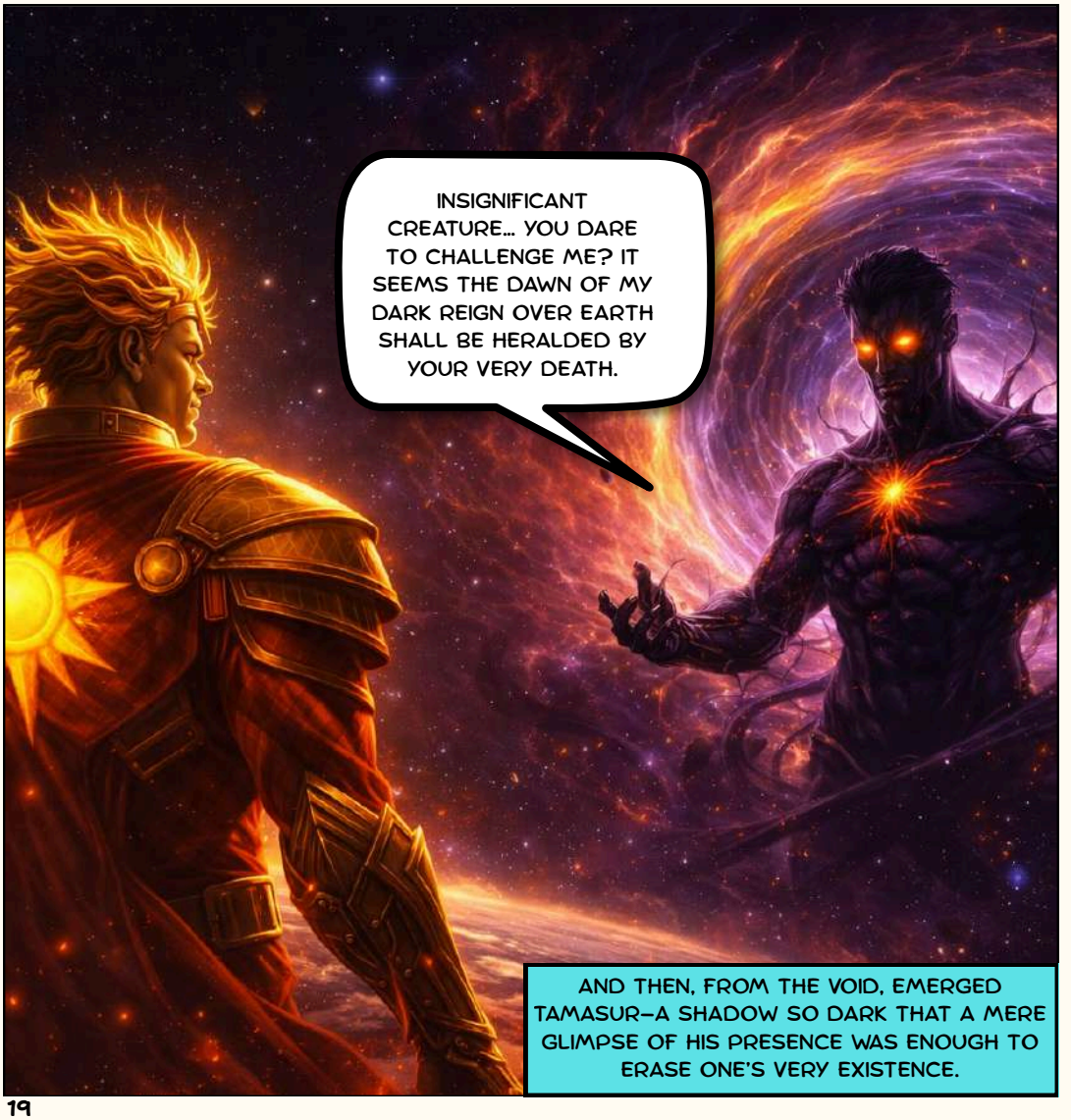
WHO IS RITUGN? HOW WAS HE BORN, AND WHERE DOES HIS DIVINE STRENGTH COME FROM? DISCOVER THE LEGEND IN 'RITUGN – THE ORIGIN STORY.' STREAMING NOW, EXCLUSIVELY ON NISHA SHASTRY AUDIO STORIES.

Quantitative Metrics:
Parameter: Value
Max Physical Output: 20 Elephants
Military Capacity: Over 75 Tons

Thresholds
Maximum Sustained Impact: 2 Kilotons TNT
Critical Lethal Impact: Over 5 Kilotons TNT

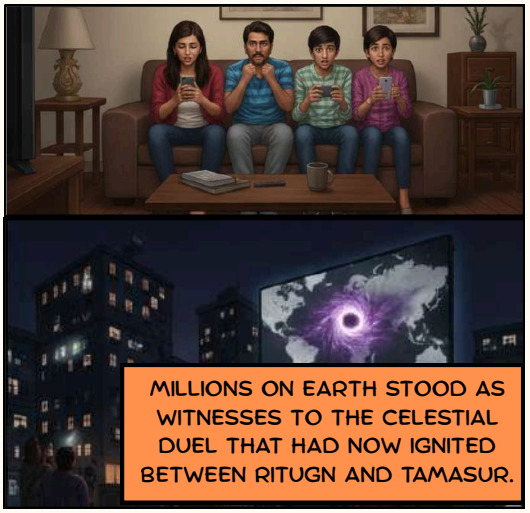

THE VERY SITE WHERE DR. ISHAN SHARMA WAS CONDUCTING HIS RESEARCH–THERE, A COLOSSAL WORMHOLE BLAZED, TEARING THROUGH THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE.

RITUGN HAD BROUGHT A SMALL SATELLITE WITH HIM, ENSURING THAT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH COULD WITNESS THIS MONUMENTAL FEAT WITH THEIR OWN EYES.


INSIGNIFICANT CREATURE... YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE ME? IT SEEMS THE DAWN OF MY DARK REIGN OVER EARTH SHALL BE HERALDED BY YOUR VERY DEATH.
AND THEN, FROM THE VOID, EMERGED TAMASUR–A SHADOW SO DARK THAT A MERE GLIMPSE OF HIS PRESENCE WAS ENOUGH TO ERASE ONE'S VERY EXISTENCE.

RITUGN DEPLOYED THE SATELLITE HE HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM, POSITIONING IT FIRMLY IN THE VOID OF SPACE.

A WAR FOR HUMANITY'S SURVIVAL WAS ABOUT TO IGNITE—
LIGHT VERSUS DARK.

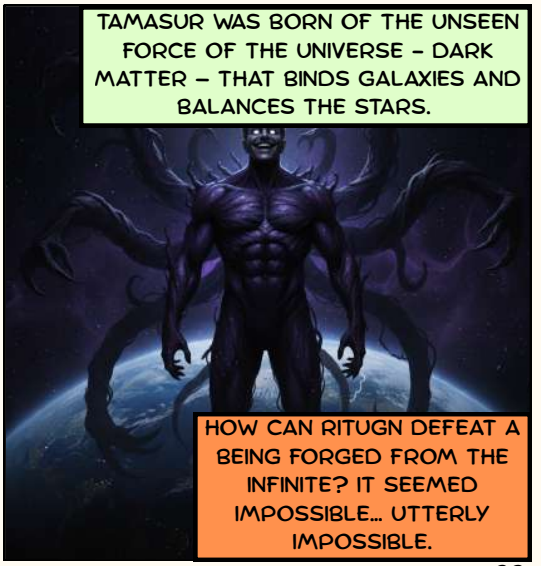


MILLIONS ON EARTH STOOD AS WITNESSES TO THE CELESTIAL DUEL THAT HAD NOW IGNITED BETWEEN RITUGN AND TAMASUR.

TAMASUR WAS BUILT FROM THE INVISIBLE SCAFFOLDING OF THE UNIVERSE. DARK MATTER—AN ENIGMA THAT DEFIES EVEN THE MOST ADVANCED HUMAN UNDERSTANDING.

THE QUESTION REMAINED: HOW COULD RITUGN EVER HOPE TO PIERCE THAT EMPIRE OF DARKNESS?

TAMASUR WAS BORN OF THE UNSEEN FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE – DARK MATTER – THAT BINDS GALAXIES AND BALANCES THE STARS.



HOW CAN RITUGN DEFEAT A BEING FORGED FROM THE INFINITE? IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE... UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE.

PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR LAST DEFEAT, RITUGN?
TAMASUR'S VOICE RESONATED LIKE A COSMIC ECHO.

ACROSS EARTH, BILLIONS WATCHED IN STUNNED SILENCE– A CLASH OF TITANS WITHOUT SOUND.
BUT WITHIN A SHIMMERING ENERGY FIELD, RITUGN AND TAMASUR SHARED A PRIVATE BROADCAST...WHERE EVERY TAUNT–AND EVERY TRUTH– STRUCK LOUD AND CLEAR.

YOU COULDN'T SURVIVE A SINGLE STRIKE FROM ME!

YOUR LAST STRIKE WAS BORN OF TREACHERY, TAMASUR. BUT TODAY, I AM READY.
RITUGN'S EYES HELD AN UNSHAKABLE RESOLVE.

IN EVERY HEART, THERE WAS BUT ONE PRAYER– THAT RITUGN WOULD SOMEHOW EMERGE VICTORIOUS.
YET DEEP DOWN, THEY ALL KNEW – THIS WASN'T A BATTLE MEANT TO BE WON.
MILLIONS ON EARTH WATCHED, SPELLBOUND. THE BATTLE, BROADCAST THROUGH THE EYES OF SATELLITE, UNFOLDED BEFORE THEM–YET IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE, NOT A SINGLE SOUND REACHED THE PLANET. THEY COULD ONLY WATCH... IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

FOOL! YOU WIELD A THOUSANDTH OF THE SUN – I COMMAND INFINITY.
FORGED FROM THE COSMOS' DARK MATTER... WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO TO ME?
THE LORD OF DARKNESS ERUPTED INTO A THUNDEROUS, MOCKING LAUGH.

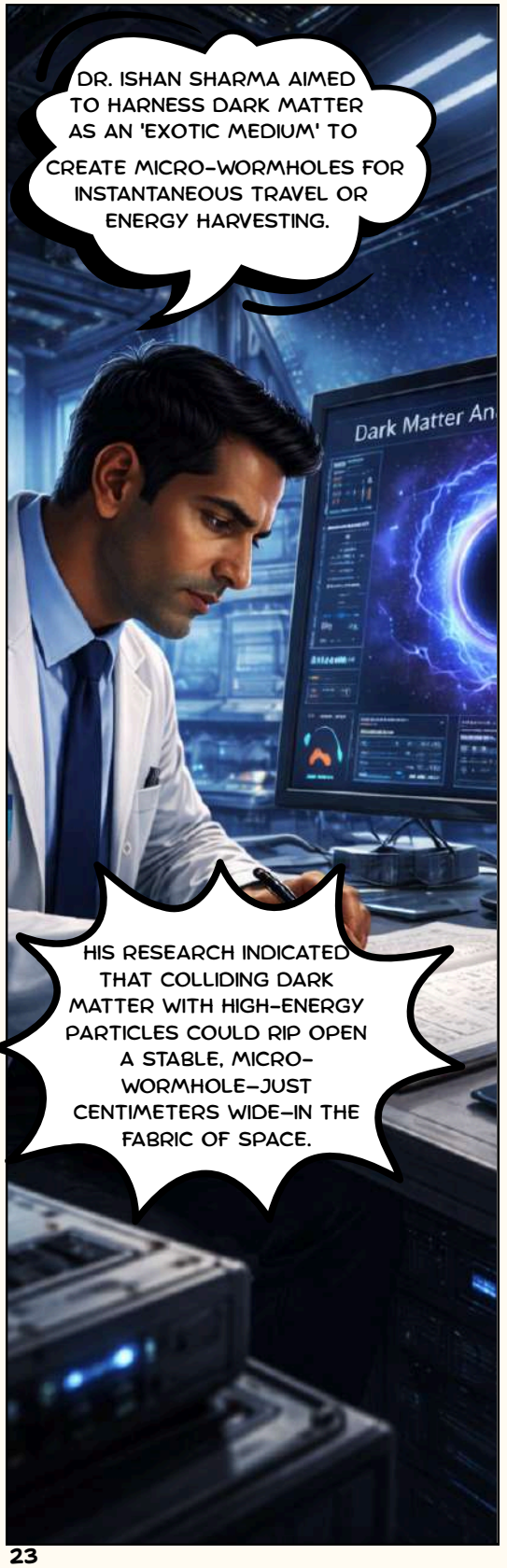
TAMASUR, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE LEGEND OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE ANT AND THE ELEPHANT?
A MYSTERIOUS SMILE PLAYED ACROSS RITUGN'S LIPS.

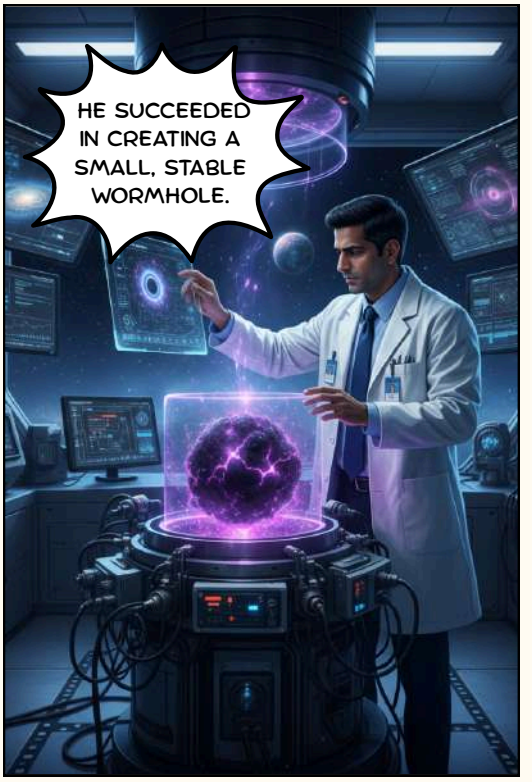
NO !
NO MATTER. TODAY, YOU WITNESS IT FIRSTHAND.
FURROWS OF WORRY ETCHED ACROSS TAMASUR'S BROW.

IS THIS YOUR HANDIWORK?
RITUGN GESTURED TOWARD THE WORMHOLE.

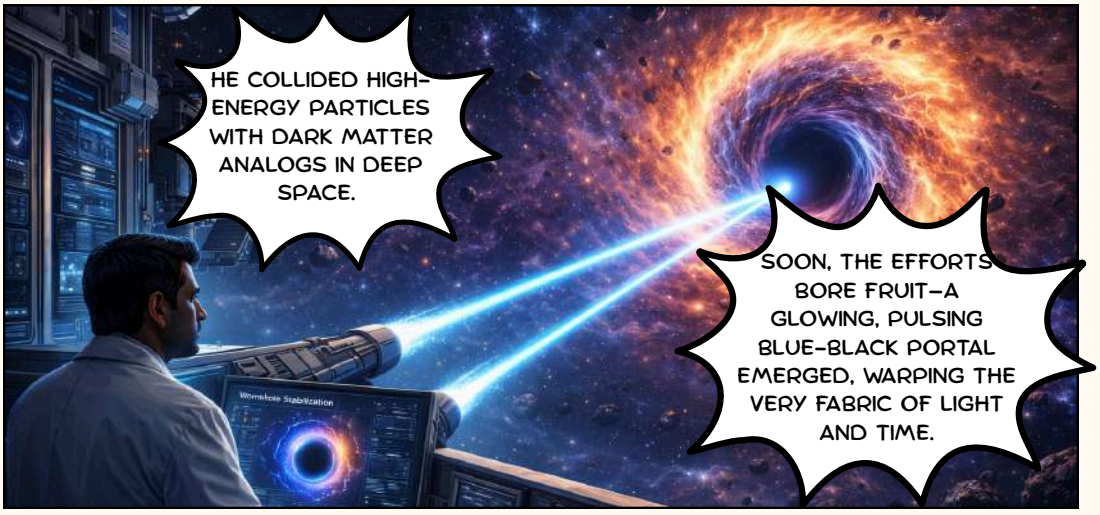
YES–IT IS MY POWER ALONE THAT STABILIZES IT. AS LONG AS I EXIST, THIS GATE REMAINS OPEN.
TAMASUR SWELLED WITH PRIDE.

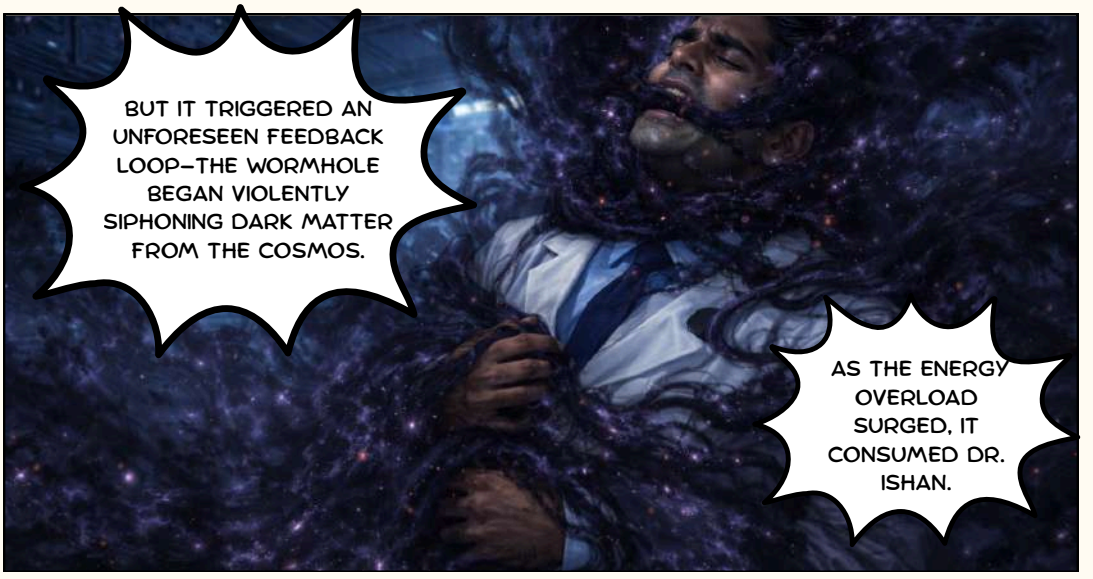
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU HAD THE GUTS TO CHALLENGE ME–SO WILL TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT TERRIFIES THE UNIVERSE ITSELF: THE TRUTH OF MY ORIGIN.
EMPOWERED BY THE DARK MATTER, TAMASUR WAS CONSUMED BY AN ARROGANCE SO PROFOUND HE BELIEVED HIMSELF INVINCIBLE.


DR. ISHAN SHARMA AIMED TO HARNESS DARK MATTER AS AN 'EXOTIC MEDIUM' TO CREATE MICRO-WORMHOLES FOR INSTANTANEOUS TRAVEL OR ENERGY HARVESTING.
Dark Matter An
HIS RESEARCH INDICATED THAT COLLIDING DARK MATTER WITH HIGH-ENERGY PARTICLES COULD RIP OPEN A STABLE, MICRO-WORMHOLE—JUST CENTIMETERS WIDE—IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE.


HE SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A SMALL, STABLE WORMHOLE.

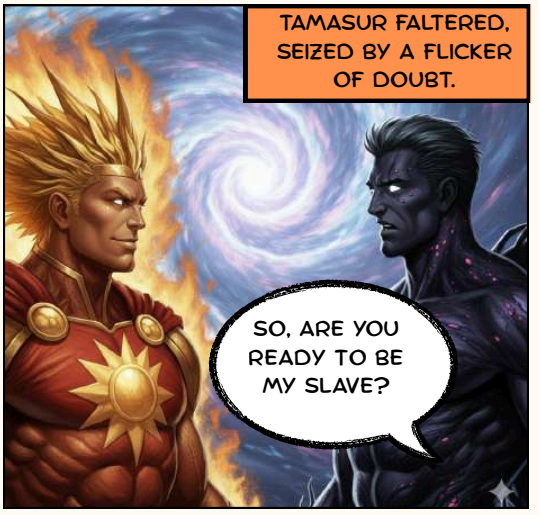
HE WAS EXHILARATED, DESPITE THE RESEARCH WARNING THAT SCALING THIS EXPERIMENT IN SPACE COULD YIELD CATASTROPHIC RESULTS.
THE PEOPLE ON EARTH COULD NOT HEAR THEM. THEY COULD ONLY WATCH.


HE COLLIDED HIGH-ENERGY PARTICLES WITH DARK MATTER ANALOGS IN DEEP SPACE.
SOON, THE EFFORTS BORE FRUIT—A GLOWING, PULSING BLUE-BLACK PORTAL EMERGED, WARPING THE VERY FABRIC OF LIGHT AND TIME.
Wormhole Stabilization


BUT IT TRIGGERED AN UNFORESEEN FEEDBACK LOOP—THE WORMHOLE BEGAN VIOLENTLY SIPHONING DARK MATTER FROM THE COSMOS.
AS THE ENERGY OVERLOAD SURGED, IT CONSUMED DR. ISHAN.

IN THAT VERY INSTANT, THE PHYSICAL EXISTENCE OF DR. ISHAN SHARMA VANISHED.
I AM... TAMASUR.
IN HIS PLACE EMERGED A COLOSSAL, EVER-SHIFTING CONSCIOUSNESS WOVEN FROM COUNTLESS TENDRILS OF DARK MATTER—THE VERY FORM THAT STANDS BEFORE YOU TODAY.

RITUGN SPOKE, HIS VOICE LACED WITH ADMIRATION.
INCOMPARABLE!
DISCIPLE OF DARKNESS, YOUR POWER TRULY IS IMMENSE.


TAMASUR FALTERED, SEIZED BY A FLICKER OF DOUBT.
SO, ARE YOU READY TO BE MY SLAVE?

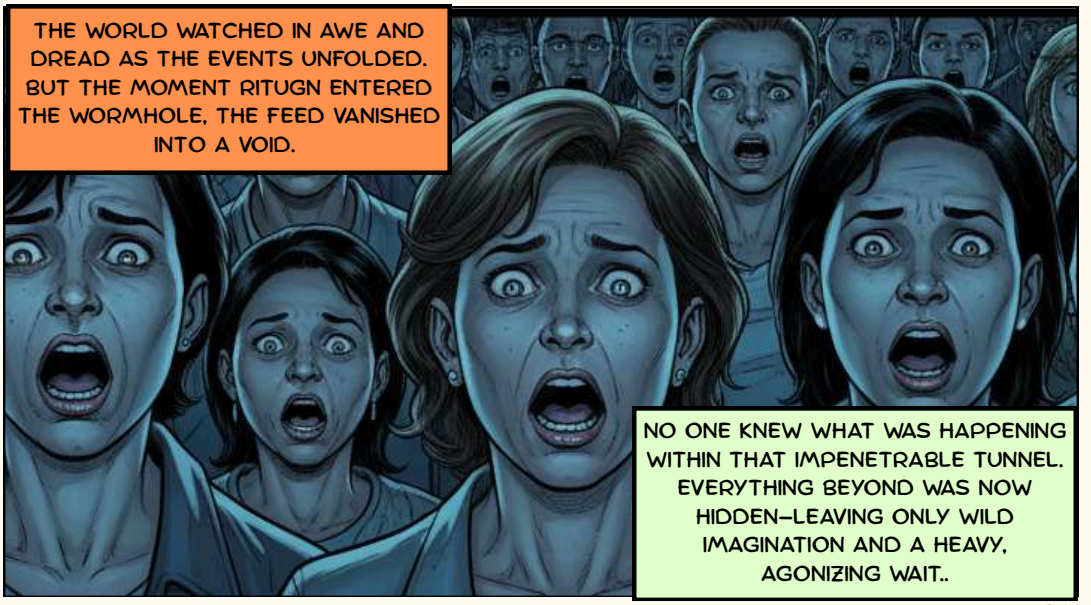
HAHA, ABSOLUTELY NOT!

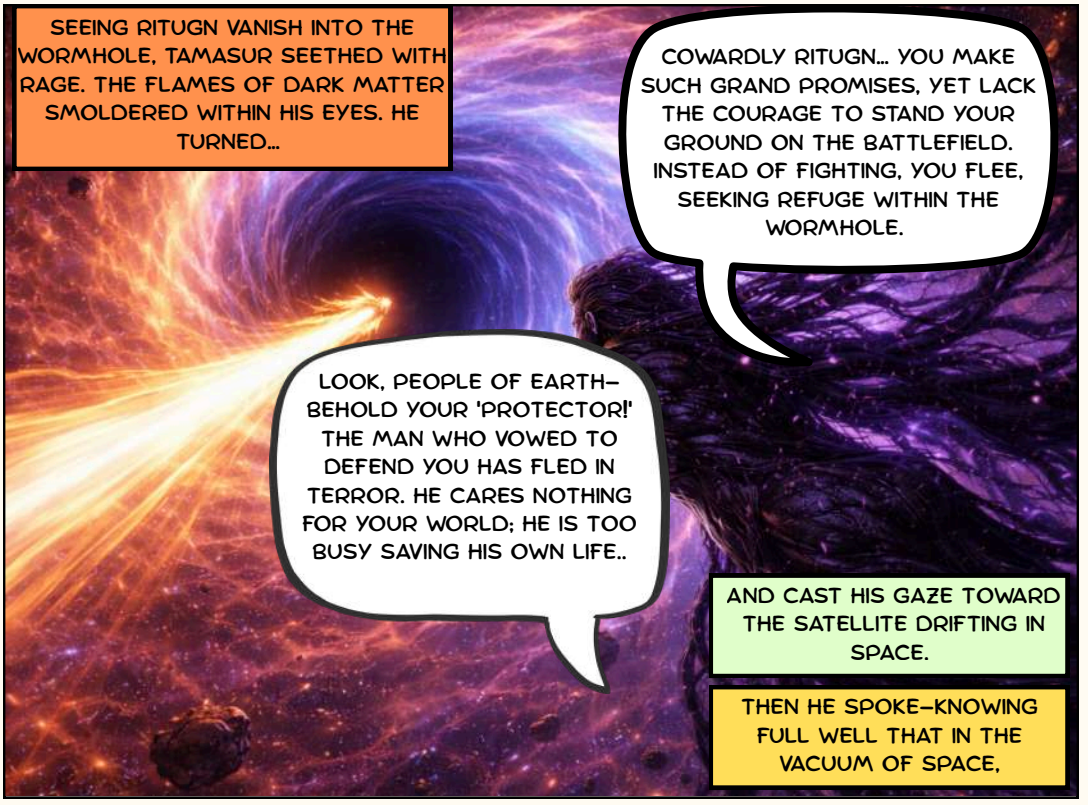
BUT REMEMBER ONE TRUTH– NO MATTER HOW VAST THE DARKNESS IN THE UNIVERSE, A SINGLE RAY OF LIGHT IS ENOUGH TO END IT.

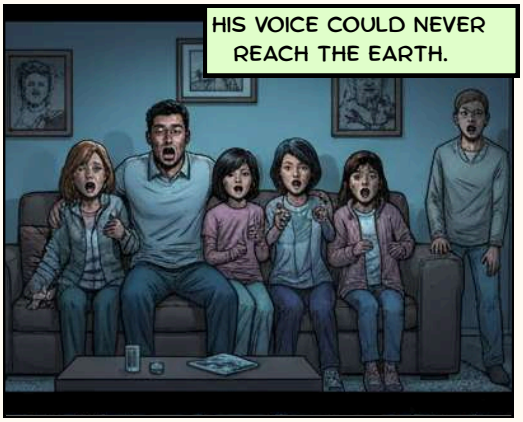
TAMASUR LUNGED FOR THE ATTACK.
TODAY, EVEN THIS ILLUSION WILL BE SHATTERED!

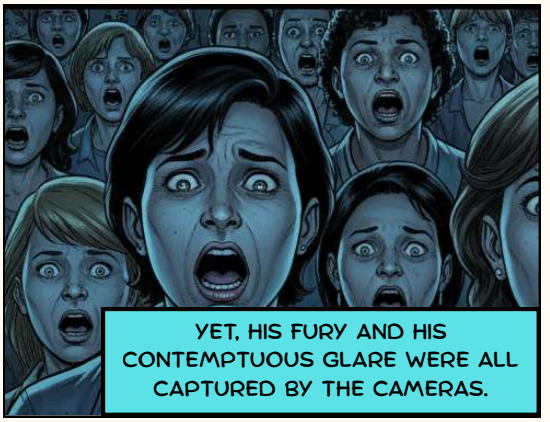
TO KILL ME, YOU MUST CATCH ME FIRST, TAMASUR!
BUT RITUGN LAUGHED.

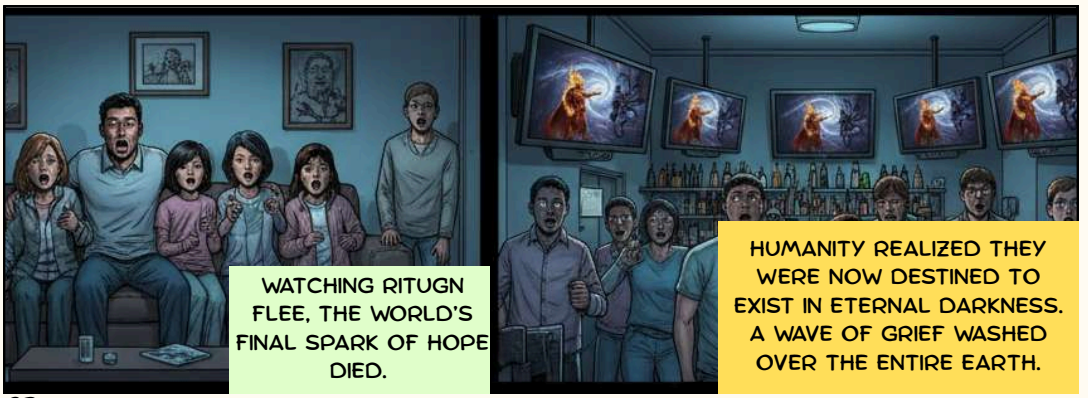
IN A FLASH, RITUGN TRANSFORMED INTO A BEAM OF INTENSE LIGHT AND VANISHED INTO THE HEART OF THE WORMHOLE.
HIS 'TEJOMAY GAMAN' WAS NO ORDINARY SPEED—IT COULD GENERATE A DIVINE RADIANCE FIELD,
IN WHICH ANYTHING CAN BE PROPELLED AT LIGHT-SPEED. RITUGN CAN ALSO USE THIS POWER TO CONVERT HIMSELF INTO A PURE RAY OF LIGHT.


THE WORLD WATCHED IN AWE AND DREAD AS THE EVENTS UNFOLDED. BUT THE MOMENT RITUGN ENTERED THE WORMHOLE, THE FEED VANISHED INTO A VOID.
NO ONE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITHIN THAT IMPENETRABLE TUNNEL. EVERYTHING BEYOND WAS NOW HIDDEN—LEAVING ONLY WILD IMAGINATION AND A HEAVY, AGONIZING WAIT..

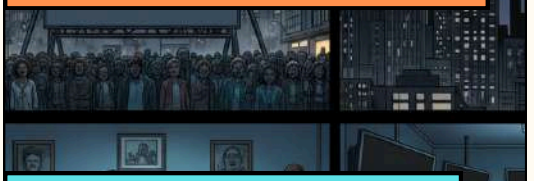

SEEING RITUGN VANISH INTO THE WORMHOLE, TAMASUR SEETHED WITH RAGE. THE FLAMES OF DARK MATTER SMOLDERED WITHIN HIS EYES. HE TURNED...
COWARDLY RITUGN... YOU MAKE SUCH GRAND PROMISES, YET LACK THE COURAGE TO STAND YOUR GROUND ON THE BATTLEFIELD. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, YOU FLEE, SEEKING REFUGE WITHIN THE WORMHOLE.
LOOK, PEOPLE OF EARTH— BEHOLD YOUR 'PROTECTOR!' THE MAN WHO VOWED TO DEFEND YOU HAS FLED IN TERROR. HE CARES NOTHING FOR YOUR WORLD; HE IS TOO BUSY SAVING HIS OWN LIFE..
AND CAST HIS GAZE TOWARD THE SATELLITE DRIFTING IN SPACE.
THEN HE SPOKE—KNOWING FULL WELL THAT IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE,


HIS VOICE COULD NEVER REACH THE EARTH.


YET, HIS FURY AND HIS CONTEMPTUOUS GLARE WERE ALL CAPTURED BY THE CAMERAS.

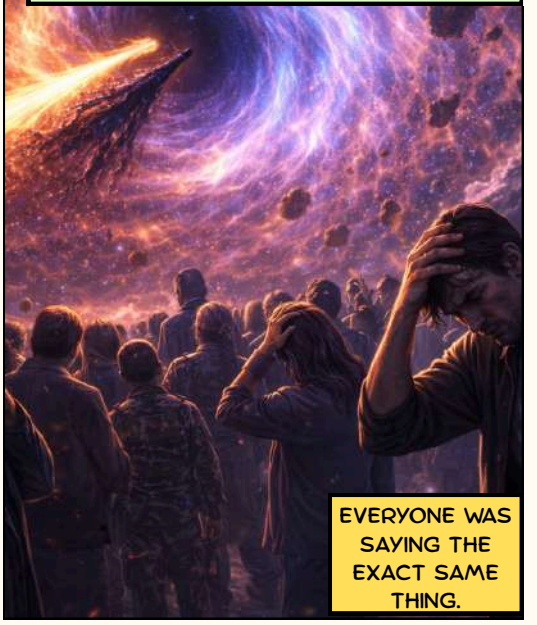

WATCHING RITUGN FLEE, THE WORLD'S FINAL SPARK OF HOPE DIED.
HUMANITY REALIZED THEY WERE NOW DESTINED TO EXIST IN ETERNAL DARKNESS. A WAVE OF GRIEF WASHED OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH.

A PROFOUND SILENCE DESCENDED UPON THE EARTH. LINES OF DESPAIR WERE ETCHED CLEARLY ON PEOPLE'S FACES.



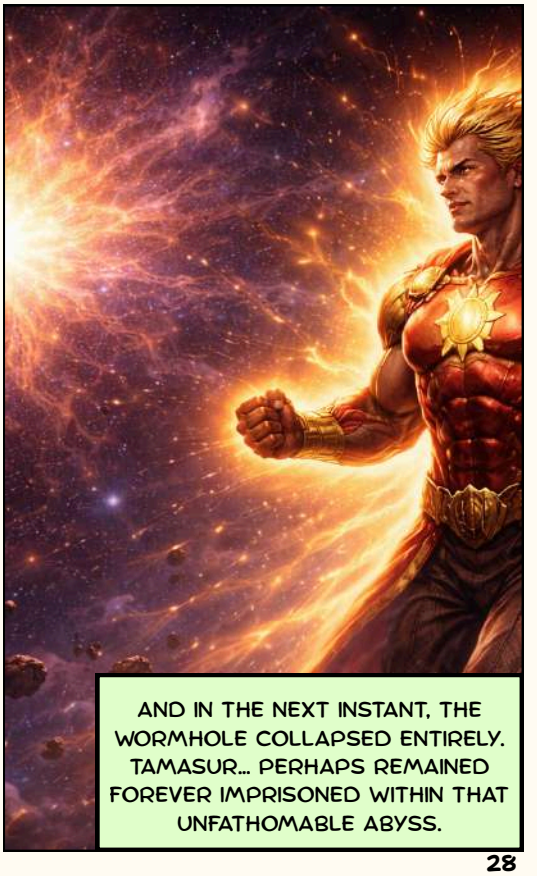
THEY BEGAN TO FEEL THAT THEY WOULD NOW HAVE TO SPEND THEIR LIVES IN THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS— FORCED TO ACCEPT THE REIGN OF TAMASUR. IT WAS AS IF HOPE ITSELF HAD WITHERED AWAY.

CONFRONTING TAMASUR MAY HAVE APPEARED FUTILE, BUT ONCE RITUGN ENTERED THE FRAY, THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK— HE HAD TO SEE THE STRUGGLE THROUGH TO ITS CONCLUSION.

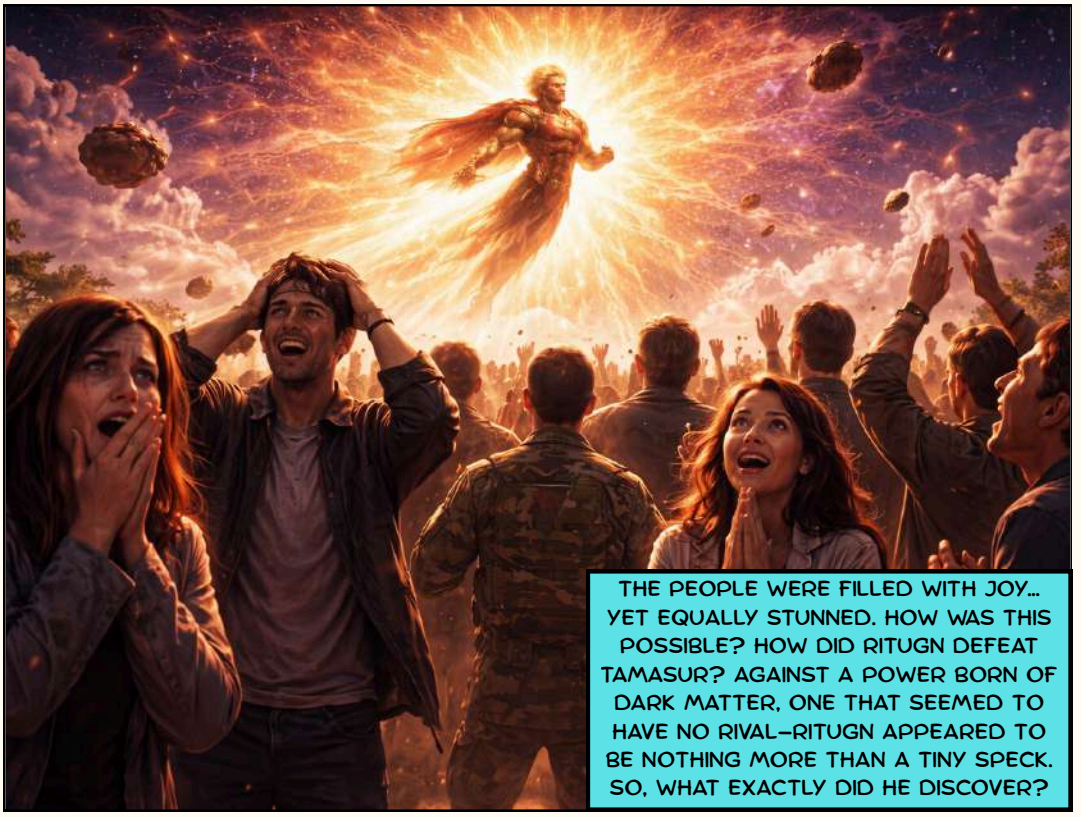


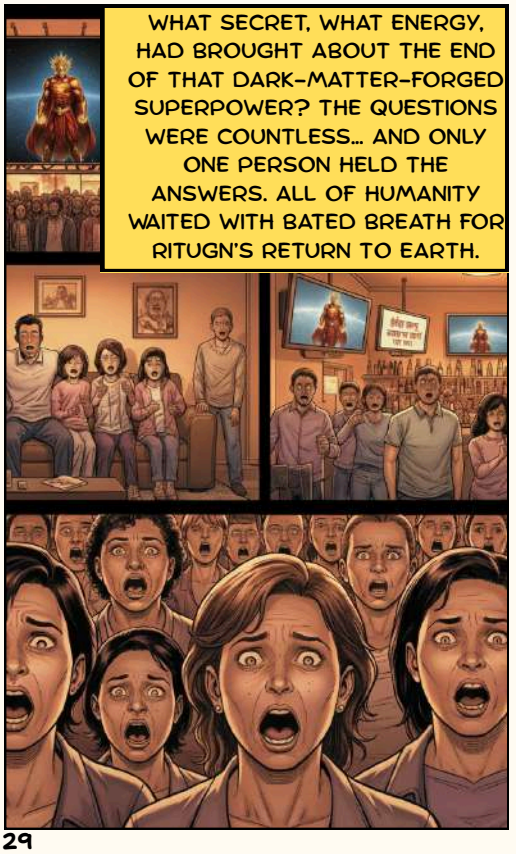
EVERYONE WAS SAYING THE EXACT SAME THING.

THEN... SUDDENLY, A WONDROUS SIGHT APPEARED IN THE SKY. FROM THE FADING PERIMETER OF THE WORMHOLE, RITUGN REAPPEARED— BLAZING WITH LIGHT, UNSHAKABLE.



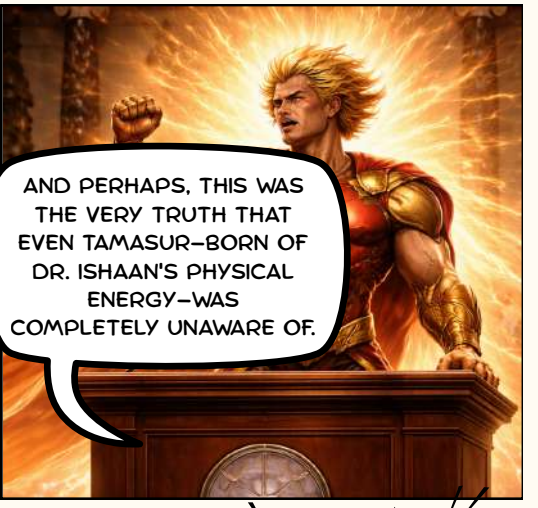
AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE WORMHOLE COLLAPSED ENTIRELY. TAMASUR... PERHAPS REMAINED FOREVER IMPRISONED WITHIN THAT UNFATHOMABLE ABYSS.


THE PEOPLE WERE FILLED WITH JOY... YET EQUALLY STUNNED. HOW WAS THIS POSSIBLE? HOW DID RITUGN DEFEAT TAMASUR? AGAINST A POWER BORN OF DARK MATTER, ONE THAT SEEMED TO HAVE NO RIVAL—RITUGN APPEARED TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A TINY SPECK. SO, WHAT EXACTLY DID HE DISCOVER?


WHAT SECRET, WHAT ENERGY, HAD BROUGHT ABOUT THE END OF THAT DARK-MATTER-FORGED SUPERPOWER? THE QUESTIONS WERE COUNTLESS... AND ONLY ONE PERSON HELD THE ANSWERS. ALL OF HUMANITY WAITED WITH BATED BREATH FOR RITUGN'S RETURN TO EARTH.

USING HIS BRILLIANT, LIGHT-SPEED TRAVEL POWERS, RITUGN QUICKLY RETURNED TO EARTH.

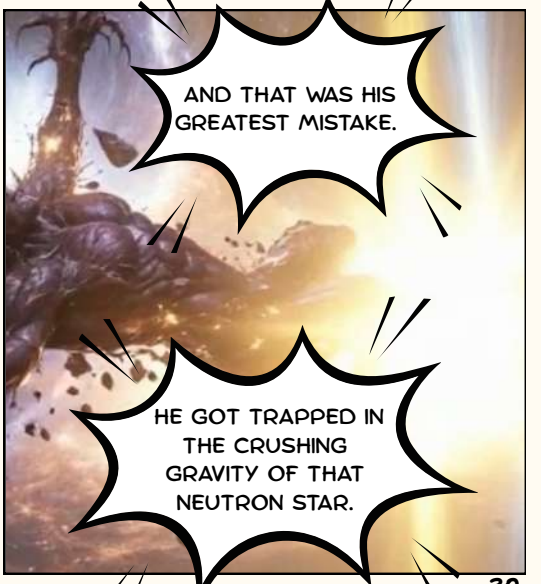
WHEN I FULLY UNDERSTOOD DR. ISHAAN'S RESEARCH AT ZULU CORP,
I REALIZED SOMETHING THAT PERHAPS DR. ISHAAN HIMSELF COULD NOT GRASP.
SOON, RITUGN WAS AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS LISTENING TO HIM.

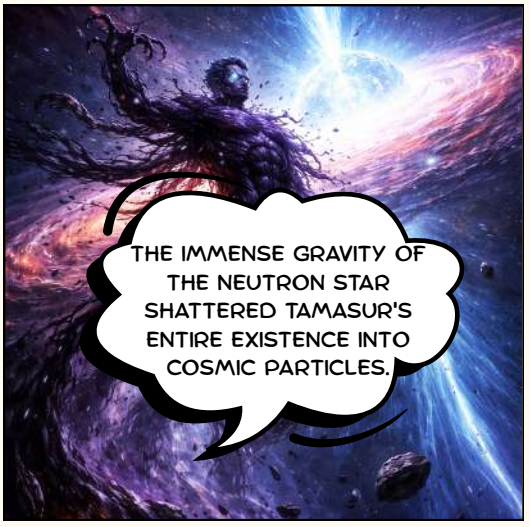

AND PERHAPS, THIS WAS THE VERY TRUTH THAT EVEN TAMASUR—BORN OF DR. ISHAAN'S PHYSICAL ENERGY—WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF.

I WASN'T RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM; RATHER, I WANTED HIM TO FOLLOW ME.

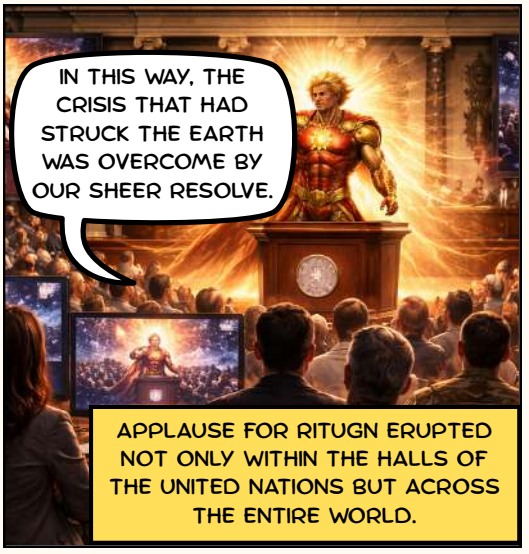
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

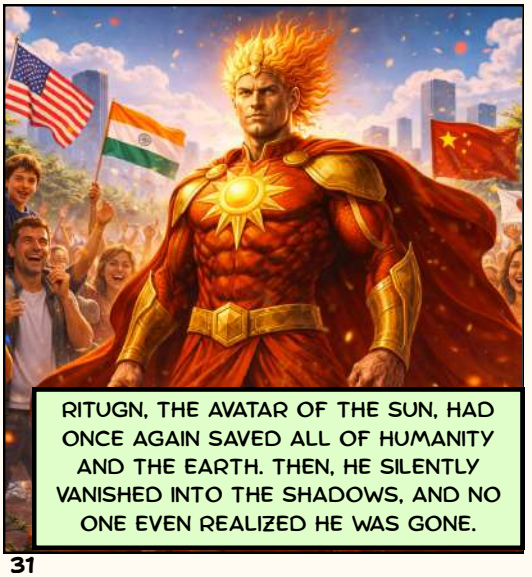
I DIDN'T EVEN EXIT THROUGH THE FAR END OF THE WORMHOLE;
INSTEAD, I PULLED A U-TURN. BUT TAMASUR, BLINDED BY RAGE, FLEW STRAIGHT OUT OF IT.


AND THAT WAS HIS GREATEST MISTAKE.
HE GOT TRAPPED IN THE CRUSHING GRAVITY OF THAT NEUTRON STAR.


THE IMMENSE GRAVITY OF THE NEUTRON STAR SHATTERED TAMASUR'S ENTIRE EXISTENCE INTO COSMIC PARTICLES.

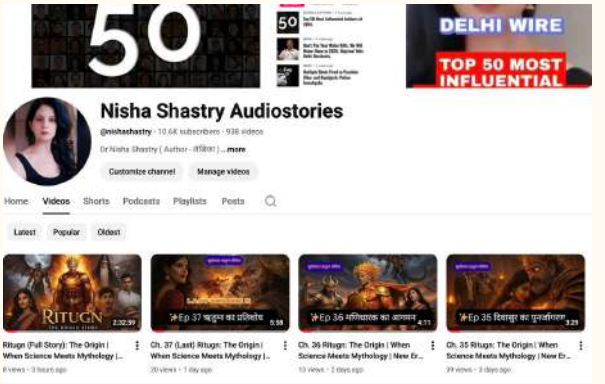
I KNEW THAT ONCE TAMASUR WAS SWALLOWED BY THE NEUTRON STAR,
THIS WORMHOLE WOULD COLLAPSE AS WELL—AND I MADE IT OUT JUST IN TIME.


IN THIS WAY, THE CRISIS THAT HAD STRUCK THE EARTH WAS OVERCOME BY OUR SHEER RESOLVE.
APPLAUSE FOR RITUGN ERUPTED NOT ONLY WITHIN THE HALLS OF THE UNITED NATIONS BUT ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD.


RITUGN, THE AVATAR OF THE SUN, HAD ONCE AGAIN SAVED ALL OF HUMANITY AND THE EARTH. THEN, HE SILENTLY VANISHED INTO THE SHADOWS, AND NO ONE EVEN REALIZED HE WAS GONE.

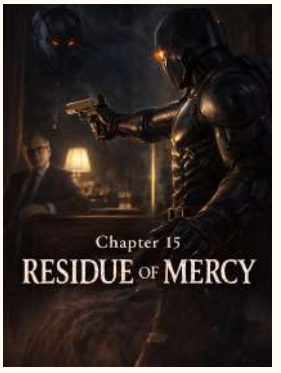
ZULU CORP HAS NOT ONLY ANNOUNCED RITUGN AS ITS BRAND AMBASSADOR BUT HAS ALSO GENEROUSLY DONATED A MASSIVE SUM OF MONEY FOR SOCIAL CAUSES.
TO HELP HUMANI
RITUGN
Humanitarian Aid
$ 1,000,000,000
THE END

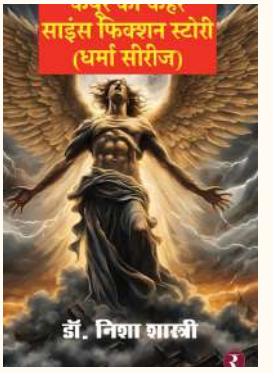
RITUGN SERIES – ENGLISH
ISSUE #1

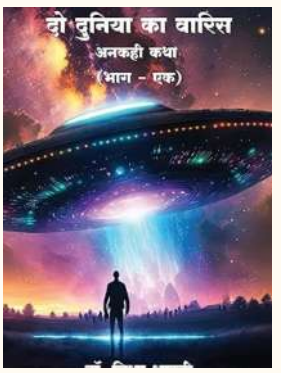


TO DISCOVER WHO RITUGN IS AND HOW HE CAME TO BE, LISTEN TO 'RITUGN: THE ORIGIN STORY' ON THE NISHA SHASTRY AUDIO STORIES YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

MORE BY DR. NISHA SHASTRY

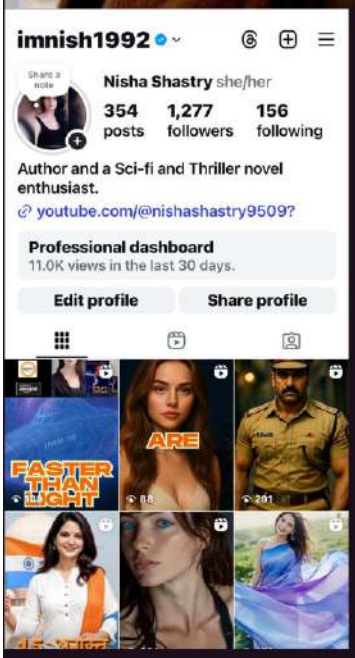




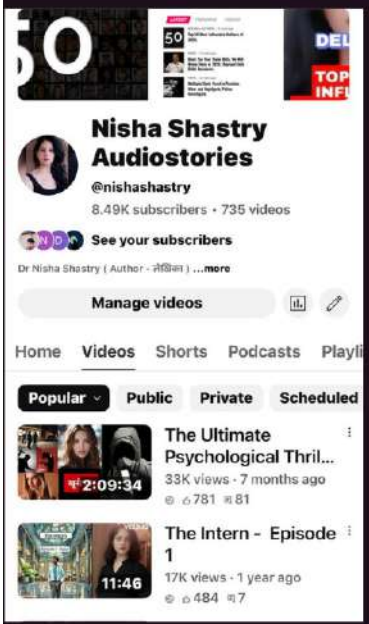


DR. NISHA SHASTRY

DELHI WIRE HAS INCLUDED DR. NISHA SHASTRY IN THE LIST OF THE FIFTY MOST INFLUENTIAL AUTHORS OF 2024. DR. NISHA SHASTRY'S SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL, CHILD OF TWO WORLDS FROM THE DHARMA SERIES, WAS PRESENTED BY HER AT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.



CONNECT WITH DR. NISHA SHASTRY ON INSTAGRAM TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEEDBACK.



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